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COUNTRY LIFE

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All communications should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, "COUNTRY LIFE," Southampton Street, Strand, London.

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COUNTRY LIFE

THE JOURNAL FOR ALL INTERESTED IN COUNTRY LIFE
AND COUNTRY PURSUITS.

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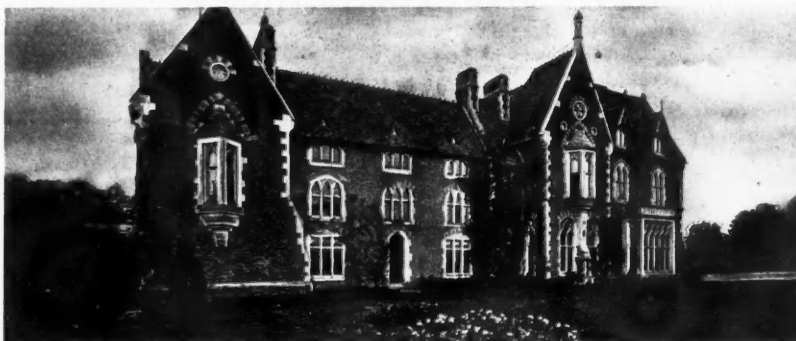


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*Co.'s electric light and
water.*

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SUMMERHOUSE.**

**PRETTY
GARDENS**



Completely modernised and in admirable order throughout.

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BEAUTIFUL SPECIMEN OF ELIZABETHAN ARCHITECTURE
CAREFULLY RESTORED AND MODERNISED

In rural country with delightful views.



3 reception, 9 bedrooms
(all with lavatory basins,
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A wealth of old oak, open
fireplaces, etc.
Main services.
Central heating.
Fine old Tithe Barn converted
into a cottage.
Beautiful gardens, some
woodland, pasture, etc.:
about

20 ACRESFor Sale by OSBORN
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Price drastically reduced to ensure early Sale.

FINE OLD GEORGIAN HOUSE IN RURAL SURREY.

Ideal situation with uninterrupted views to Leith Hill and the North Downs.

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In first-class order and
up to date with main
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2 COTTAGES.

Delightful pleasure grounds,
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2 large ponds providing
excellent coarse fishing;
in all about

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Famous Game District.

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OF ABOUT**2,000 ACRES**

Numerous farms and holdings well let and
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1½ HOURS NORTH OF TOWN

Well-let Block of Farms in first-class Dairy
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Company's water.

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Capital Dairy Farm with Beautiful
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Fine range of farmbuildings, cottages, etc.

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THE EXCEPTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE RESIDENTIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND SPORTING ESTATE

of about **324 ACRES** in a ring fence,

known as

MEDLAND MANOR, CHERITON BISHOP

12 miles from Exeter.

DISTINCTIVE TUDOR STYLE RESIDENCE

on 2 floors, giving minimum of upkeep. In perfect taste and beautifully equipped. Large sums of money recently
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STABLING. GARAGE.
7 GOOD COTTAGES.

Main electricity. Central heating.
Water by gravitation.

BEAUTIFULLY TIMBERED
PLEASURE GROUNDS

Inexpensive to maintain.

Delightful, well-placed woodlands and
coppices.

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PRODUCING A GROSS
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FREEHOLD FOR SALE AS A WHOLE (OR WOULD BE DIVIDED) BY PRIVATE TREATY OR AUCTION LATER.

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Rich Riverside Farm in lovely setting.

MODERN HOUSE

WITH 2 RECEPTION, 6/7 BEDROOMS AND 2 BATH ROOMS.

Excellent Buildings. Cottages. Company's Light and Power. Ample Water.

ABOUT 285 ACRES FOR SALE FREEHOLD

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ORIGINAL GEORGIAN HOUSE**

enjoying panoramic views.

3 or 4 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, 2 bath rooms.
Electric light. Ample water. Swimming pool. Lodge. Garage.**28 ACRES. ONLY £3,500**

More Land Available.

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High up near a delightful small Town.

STONE-BUILT RESIDENCEwith 2 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, bath room. Company's electric light and water.
Ample Farm Buildings. 4 Cottages.**ABOUT 400 ACRES. WITH POSSESSION
FOR SALE FREEHOLD.**

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(ESTABLISHED 1778)

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And at
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12, Victoria Street,
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SECLUDED IN S. DEVON

TO BE LET UNFURNISHED AT £250 P.A.



The accommodation arranged around an inner court, comprises:
13 BED and DRESSING ROOMS. 3 BATHROOMS.
4 RECEPTION ROOMS.
Electric light. Good water. Modern drainage.
Stabling. Garage. 2 cottages. Farmbuildings.
PRETTY GARDENS AND GROUNDS,
with swimming pool, arable, pasture and woodland; in
all about **600 ACRES**
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UP TO £100,000

IS AVAILABLE FOR INVESTMENT IN A
FIRST-CLASS

AGRICULTURAL ESTATE

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**STEADY RENT ROLL
FROM WELL LET FARMS**

Mansion not required, nor an Estate depending on Sporting
Rights for a large proportion of its income.

ALSO WANTED A SIMILAR INVESTMENT OF 1,500 ACRES

Mainly Arable preferred.

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About 9 miles from each; village, station and bus handy.



£2,600
REDUCED FROM £3,000 FOR QUICK SALE.
This exceedingly well-built and admirably planned HOUSE
contains 5 good bedrooms and large room space on same
level for more if required, bathroom, 3 good reception
rooms, excellent offices with "Aga" cooker, etc.
Co.'s electricity, good water and drainage.
2 GARAGES, and 1 ACRE of Well-timbered and Stocked
Gardens with croquet lawn.
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F. L. MERCER & CO.

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A QUEEN ANNE HOUSE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE. 300FT. UP

Attractively situated on the outskirts of a Village near Chipping Sodbury.



Full of character,
stone built, connected
with main drainage,
electricity and water,
centrally heated, and
containing square hall,
3 reception, 7 bed-
rooms, 3 bathrooms,
3 attic bedrooms,
ample kitchen prem-
ises; "Esse" cooker,
staff sitting room.
The living rooms are
lofty, well lighted and
of generous propor-
tions.
Garages, Stables, 2
good Cottages. Ten-
nis court, lovely old
Gardens with a fine
collection of trees.

2 orchards and 2 paddocks. (The Cottage and the Land let for £46 a year.)

£3,750 WITH 9 ACRES

CENTRAL FOR HUNTING WITH THE BEAUFORT AND BERKELEY.
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AMAZING HAMPSHIRE BARGAIN

SMALL COUNTRY HOUSE

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2 reception, sun
lounge, 4 bedrooms,
bathroom.

Main water.

Company's electricity
available.

GARAGE.

Stable and Coach
House.

Well-stocked gardens
and large field.

4 ACRES.

ONLY £1,500 FREEHOLD FOR IMMEDIATE SALE
UNQUESTIONABLY ONE OF THE GREATEST BARGAINS AT PRESENT
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NORTH SOMERSET. IN THE CENTRE OF EXMOOR

With marvellous panoramic views. On high ground, facing South.
PERFECT FOR EVACUATION OR PERMANENT SMALL COUNTRY HOME.

Occupying one of the
finest positions in the
county. 10 miles from
Dunster. 14 from
Minehead and 24 from
Taunton.

Attractive Labour-
saving HOUSE.
Entrance hall and
cloakroom, 2 recep-
tion, 5 bedrooms,
bathroom. Man's
quarters (outside)
with sitting room and
2 bedrooms, staff
bathroom. Electric
light; abundant
water supply.

Garage for 2 cars.
5 loose boxes.

Matured Gardens and 2 enclosures of meadowland. Hunting with the
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DEVON & DORSET BORDERS. 300 FT. UP

WILL SELL QUICKLY AT £4,750 WITH 30 ACRES

IN PERFECT CONDITION. AN INCOMPARABLE BARGAIN.

A BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED OLD HOUSE

of considerable char-
acter, Tudor type,
stone built with stone
mullioned windows,
and tiled roof. £3,000
spent on improve-
ments in the past 3
years. Very charming
interior, spacious hall,
drawing room (46ft.
long), 3 other recep-
tion, kitchen (with
"Aga" cooker), 8
bedrooms, 3 bath-
rooms. Electric light,
central heating. Oak
floors. Fine old oak
staircase. Running
water in bedrooms.
3 Garages. Stable for
4. Tennis court.

Grandly timbered GROUNDS and walled kitchen garden. 2 exceptionally good
Cottages. The land includes 10 Acres of pasture and 16 Acres of woodland. Central
for golf, salmon and trout fishing, hunting and shooting.

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Situate on hillside commanding glorious views over the Vale. Buses, church,
shops within 5 minutes' walk. Taunton and Yeovil short drive.

PICTURESQUE MODERNISED XVIth CENTURY COTTAGE

With main electricity and water. Lead light casement windows, beamed ceilings, etc.

PANELLED HALL, 3 RECEPTION, 4 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM (h. and c.).

GARAGE. STABLES. STUDIO.

MATURED KITCHEN GARDEN. PROLIFIC ORCHARD. LAWN, ETC.

RATES £16 P.A.

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ESTABLISHED 1875.

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Set in a peaceful and secluded position, high
up in beautifully wooded country, 7 miles
from Exeter.

ATTRACTIVE MODERN HOUSE

Built of brick, roughcast, with overhanging
gables and Delabole slate roof.

- 4 RECEPTION ROOMS.
- 13 BEDROOMS.
- 3 BATHROOMS.
- USUAL OFFICES.

Central Heating.

2 COTTAGES.

GARAGE AND STABLING.



CHARMING GARDENS AND GROUNDS

well wooded, with sloping lawns, lily pond,
formal garden, wild garden, swimming
pool.

IN ALL ABOUT 600 ACRES
of which 450 are woodland and the arable
is let.

TO BE LET UNFURNISHED

Trout Fishing. Golf.

CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street,
W.1. (15,431A.)

SURREY (Leith Hill District).—Beautifully secluded
position, 1 minute from bus route and 1½ miles from
Station. MODERN HOUSE of character, 4 reception,
9 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Main services; central
heating. Garage and Cottage.

4 Acres or more.

FOR SALE OR TO LET UNFURNISHED.

Apply CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1.
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HERTFORDSHIRE (Near Tring and Berkhamsted)
—MODERN HOUSE of unusual design, near lovely
woodlands, 800 ft. above sea level and approached by a
private lane. Oak-paneled hall, 2 reception rooms,
4 bedrooms, bathroom. Main services; central heating.
Garage. Land available from 1 to 20 Acres. For Sale
Freehold. Also another House and Bungalow are
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BERKSHIRE (Near Wokingham and Railway Station).—Comfortably furnished HOUSE, suitable for a
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All main services. Garage and Stabling (with 3 bed-
rooms over). Attractive Gardens and Grounds; in all
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To be Let Furnished for 6 or 12 months at a
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350 FT. UP. WITH A BEAUTIFUL VIEW OVER THE BLACKMORE VALE.

In a good Social and Sporting neighbourhood. Peaceful and secluded position
with all the amenities of a small country town immediately at hand.



A Stone-built Tudor
HOUSE of consider-
able character and
charm, modernised
and improved regard-
less of cost. With
lounge-hall, fine draw-
ing room (30 ft. long),
2 other reception
rooms, 9 bedrooms,
dressing room, 3
bathrooms. "Aga"
cooker, central
heating, basins in
bedrooms, main drain-
age, electricity, gas and
water.
Garages, Stables,
2 excellent Cottages.
Tennis Court and
Attractive Old
Gardens.

FOR SALE WITH 3 ACRES at MUCH BELOW ACTUAL COST

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400 FEET UP.

ON THE WILTS & SOMERSET BORDERS

In an old-world village between Bath and Bradford-on-Avon,
A WEST COUNTRY GEM



This 400-years-old
stone-built House of
character has recently
been modernised
without destroying its
period charm. There
are many oak beams,
attractive open fire-
places, and other
features.
3 sitting rooms, 5 bed
and dressing rooms,
2 bathrooms.
"Esse" stove and
water heater.
Main electric light and
water.
Large garage.
Stabling.
Range of kennels with
"Fence" fencing.

The GARDENS, which are intersected by a stream, offer exceptional facilities for a
keen gardener, the soil being very productive and the whole property well sheltered.

2 ACRES. FREEHOLD. £3,250

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A LOVELY POSITION IN SURREY HILLS

650 ft. above sea level. Quiet and secluded yet easily accessible. 37 minutes from London.

The Attractive Free-
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of character is a copy
of a Somerset Manor
House, extremely well
appointed, in excel-
lent condition and
easy to run. Lounge-
hall, 3 reception
rooms, 5 bedrooms,
dressing room, 3
baths. Oak panelling
and floors. All main
services connected,
including Company's
electric light and
power, gas and water.
Main drainage.
2 Garages.
Gardener's Cottage.



The well-stocked GARDENS form a most attractive feature; tennis and other
lawns, flower beds and herbaceous borders, yew hedges and many flowering
and evergreen shrubs and trees.

FOR SALE WITH 1½ ACRES. Further Land Available

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FOR SALE WITH ABOUT 6 ACRES

Pleasantly situated between Bedford and Kettering; convenient for golf and fishing
and central for hunting with the Oakley.

An extremely
well-built and compact
MODERN HOUSE
with a bright and
cheerful interior; on
2 floors only, 3 recep-
tion, 6 bedrooms,
bathroom. Main elec-
tricity, central heat-
ing, septic tank
drainage.

GARAGE.

Tennis Court.

Charming matured
and well-stocked
Garden, with large
paddock and an
orchard containing
about 200 trees.



Forming an attractive small country home which can be maintained with the
minimum of indoor and outdoor staff.

FREEHOLD ONLY £2,250

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A GENUINE QUEEN ANNE HOUSE

ON THE HANTS AND BERKS BORDERS

Amidst Exquisite rural surroundings, overlooking extensive Common.

FASCINATING RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER

Equipped with every possible convenience. 300 ft. up on the fringe of a picturesque old-world village.

3 OR 4 RECEPTION, 8 BED AND DRESSING ROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS.

Main electric light and power. Company's gas and water. Central heating throughout and fitted basins in bedrooms.

2 GARAGES.

STABLING.

EXQUISITE WELL-STOCKED GARDENS AND USEFUL PADDOCK.

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BEAUTIFUL SMALL ESTATE of NEARLY 100 ACRES

In perfect country. 1 hour London.

FOR SALE at HALF COST

CHARMING PERIOD HOUSE

newly decorated and in perfect order. 13 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms.

Main services.

Central heating throughout.
Garages and Outbuildings.
Several Cottages.

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with fine trees.

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One of the choicest properties in the market.

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CAPITAL FARM INVESTMENT IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

FARM OF 200 ACRES

in a ring fence

STONE-BUILT FARMHOUSE

with 5-8 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 sitting rooms.
Modern Farm Buildings.

LET ON AN ANNUAL TENANCY.

TO BE SOLD

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MOST ATTRACTIVE GEORGIAN HOUSE

3 reception rooms, 11 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms,
usual offices. Garage, stabling.

Central heating. Electric Light.

Lovely gardens, hard tennis court, woodland farm etc.

TO BE LET FURNISHED

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE A GENUINE QUEEN ANNE HOUSE

3 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Central heating.

Company's water and electric light.

2 cottages. Stabling. Garages.

ABOUT 9 ACRES. FOR SALE

Income £46 p.a.

Price £3,750.

CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

AT A LOW RESERVE TO ENSURE A SALE POLSTEAD HALL ESTATE, SUFFOLK A COMPACT SMALL SPORTING ESTATE

OF GREAT ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST, WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE UNDISTURBED POSSESSION OF THE PRESENT OWNER'S FAMILY FOR 350 YEARS.

In an unsurpassed setting, comprising the major portion of one of the prettiest villages in East Anglia.

The SMALL MANSION contains 6 reception rooms and 13 bed and dressing rooms. PLEASURE GROUNDS of exceptional charm, and, from their character, inexpensive to maintain. DEER PARK of 86 Acres (including the wood of 55 (allow deer), beautifully timbered with specimen trees of all varieties, and containing the world-renowned GOSPEL OAK (1,300 years old). LODGE COTTAGE. THE LORDSHIP OF THE ANCIENT MANOR OF POLSTEAD, said to have belonged to Eufida, Queen of the East Saxons, mentioned in Domesday, and with records dating from 1277. The PONDS FARM, with one of the most attractive farmhouses in the county.

THREE NOTED FOX COVERTS EXTENDING TO 71 ACRES

THESE AND THE WHOLE ESTATE ARE WELL-TIMBERED, AND ALL GROWING TIMBERS ARE INCLUDED IN THE SALE.

Also numerous Tudor and other Cottages, the Village Post Office and Shop.

IN ALL ABOUT 457 ACRES

The Residence, etc., with possession, the Farm Lands are let, which Messrs. BOARDMAN & OLIVER have been favoured with instructions from the Executors of the late Walter Mathews Cooke to SELL by AUCTION as a whole, or in 10 Lots (unless previously sold by private treaty), at SUDBURY on SEPTEMBER 19TH.

Particulars, plans and condition of sale from the Solicitors, Messrs. GOTELEE & GOLDSMITH, Hadleigh and Ipswich; and the Auctioneers, Messrs. BOARDMAN and OLIVER, Sudbury, Suffolk

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Estate Agents, Surveyors & Auctioneers,

HAVE

RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL
PROPERTIES

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Within 6½ miles of Peterborough, and 86 of London.

FREEHOLD FEN FARM AND RESIDENCE

FOR SALE by AUCTION at the "FALCON" HOTEL, WHITTLESEY, on FRIDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER, 1940, at 8 p.m.

LOT 1. Freehold FEN FARM. 115a. 2r. 5p. Annual Rental £300.

LOT 2. With Vacant Possession. Superior Double-fronted Brick-and-slatted RESIDENCE, known as "The Wilderness." In splendid repair throughout, containing: 3 reception rooms, lounge hall, 7 bedrooms, bathroom. Electric light and water supply. Large garage. Delightful Grounds, tennis and croquet lawns; large heated conservatory; kitchen garden and walled-in ornamental gardens. The whole containing 3r. 10p. (more or less).

LOTS 3 and 4. Two parcels of PASTURE LAND.

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THE ONLY COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED REGISTER.

Price 2/6.

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(Est. 1884.)

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17, Above Bar, Southampton, WALLER & KING, F.A.I.

Business Established over 100 years.

FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET

SUNNINGDALE (Berks).—To LET, Furnished or Unfurnished, detached HOUSE, charming situation and outlook; private road by golf course; 4 bedrooms, 2 reception, cloakroom, usual offices, sun porch; good garden and vegetable garden, orchard, greenhouse; telephone, etc. Excellent train service London, 45 minutes. Reasonable rental.—"A.646," c/o COUNTRY LIFE Offices, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2.

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COUNTRY HOUSE, standing on elevated land, 10-15 bedrooms; with adjoining land or farm; district 10-15 miles north or north-west of Wolverhampton.—"A.647," c/o COUNTRY LIFE Offices, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2.

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BY DIRECTION OF EXECUTORS.

Ipswich 15 miles, Framlingham 5½. Rural, unspoilt. SUFFOLK.—Gentleman's ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY RESIDENCE, in well-timbered grounds of 9½ ACRES. 3 reception, 6 bed, bath (h. and c.); electricity. 2 Garages; hunter stabling. Tennis lawn; ornamental water. 2 paddocks. Also old Tudor Cottage with 11 ACRES. For Sale or to be Let.—WOODCOCK & SON, Ipswich.

AT BARGAIN PRICE OF £1,350.

Well inland, but easy run Sandringham, Wells, etc.

NORFOLK.—Fully modernised GEORGIAN RESIDENCE, high up with extensive views. 3 spacious reception, cloakroom, 5-6 bed, 2 modern bathrooms (h. and c.); wired for electricity (close by). Garage for 2 cars; hunter stabling. Attractively timbered grounds of about 3 ACRES.—WOODCOCK & SON, Ipswich.

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COUNTRY LIFE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th, 1940

Vol. LXXXVIII. No. 2278



THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AT HOME

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hudson have tea in the library at Mersham-le-Hatch, the beautiful Adam house in Kent where the Minister spends a few hours whenever he can

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"Country Life" Crossword No. 555 p. xxii.

POSTAL CHARGES.—The Editor reminds correspondents and contributors that any communications requiring a reply must be accompanied by the requisite stamps. Notice is given that MSS. submitted will not be returned unless this condition is complied with.

POSTAGES ON THIS ISSUE: ISLAND 2½d., CANADA 1½d., ABROAD 3d.

REPAIRING RAID DAMAGE

THE Prime Minister's announcement that the Government will review their decision on insurance against air-raid damage was widely welcomed. Mr. Churchill gave some interesting figures of the extent of damage to date—800 houses damaged beyond repair in August. His warning that an intensification of raiding must be expected has since been fulfilled, but, even so, the limited extent of damage to private property is regarded as supplying a basis justifying compulsory mutual insurance. There is, too, enough evidence to warrant modifying the regulations in other respects. The extension of compensation up to 100 per cent. for persons of limited means is entirely right. But for those above the £400 a year income level, problems will still remain until the insurance mechanism is perfected. How the existing regulations work and what are the important points to realise, are well illustrated by an actual instance. A householder, a widow, obtained an estimate of the cost of repairs to her damaged house and had them executed. She was then disconcerted to find that the bill came to twice the estimate of the district valuer, on which is based the compensation due to her after the war. In this sad story the following points should be noted: all claims have to be based on the building costs in force in March, 1939—the date selected by the Uthwatt Committee on which the existing legislation is framed—and the local authority's valuer adopts this scale, though the builder employed naturally charges the current and much higher prices. A claim is alternatively to be based on the market value of a property in March, 1939, this provision applying to cases where the cost of repair may greatly exceed the diminution in market value caused by the damage—as in the case of a large and neglected country house.

If, in the case quoted, the owner had not had the repairs executed herself, what would be her position? The local authority is empowered to do the repairs, but only with the Ministry of Health's consent, and if they are satisfied of the owner's unwillingness or inability to undertake them, and of the lack of alternative accommodation in the neighbourhood. In other words, they would probably not have undertaken the work, but only the "temporary repairs" to avoid danger to health, which mean boarding up the windows and covering any holes in the roof with tarpaulin, the cost of which the owner has to pay. When the full repairs are completed by the local authority after the war, the cost would constitute a charge on the house, and the owner would still have to make up the difference between the costs in March, 1939, and the date of repair, and have been homeless meanwhile into the bargain. Since prices will then probably be higher still, it would, therefore, seem wise for the householder to have an assessment of damage made at once, even if he does not cause the repairs to be executed as soon as possible. There is much to be said for owners of houses in dangerous areas having up-to-date drawings of their premises prepared at once, as a basis for claims. A useful schedule of market prices for building materials as for March, 1939, is published in the *Architects' Journal* of September 5th. A further complication arises over the sale of a damaged house, the law failing to make it clear whether the present owner or the owner at the end of the war is chargeable for repairs.

It has been suggested that the Act should be amended to include new tiles and glazing as "temporary repairs"; and that these, where practicable, should be effected at the public expense and be repaid by the Exchequer to the local authorities. In the case of severe damage to buildings of indifferent character—houses that, in fact, are much better out of the way—there can be no question of their being exactly reconstructed, but proposals for the eventual replanning or rebuilding of areas or streets might well be prepared in advance.

THE SUPREME HOUR

Though near the cliffs of France, nearer than in the day
When Wordsworth saw them shine yet was no whit appalled,
Like him let us make strong our souls in us, and say
"This is the supreme hour to which we have been called."
ARUNDELL ESDAILE.

THE SECOND YEAR ON THE FARM

THE outbreak of war coincided with the harvest, so that its anniversary corresponds neatly with the natural end of the farmer's year. This has been far more satisfactory than many dared to hope in the dark days of a phenomenal winter, and the harvest that has been gathered, above average quality in some areas, in the aggregate fully justifies the limited objective set to farmers by Sir Reginald Dorman Smith. To plough up and crop two million additional acres was a tall enough order, and the outcome has shown that, in spite of what critics said, it corresponded remarkably accurately to what the industry could reasonably be expected to perform. The second year opens for farmers with, in some respects, greater uncertainty. The first year's programme grew out of a policy of regeneration—of the soil and of the industry; that is to say, it was on a practical agricultural basis. Since then, the emphasis has shifted, as perhaps was inevitable, towards the production of those foods most necessary to the nation's diet. The Ministry of Food has taken over several functions of the Ministry of Agriculture, and farmers, labouring under the unfortunate handling of successive feeding-stuffs Orders, view the change with some apprehension. They are, in effect, being regimented by two departments, one of which controls both their supplies and the disposal of their products, yet on which they are not adequately represented. They feel—and none who appreciates the vital necessity of sound agriculture can disagree with them—that one of two major changes in this dual control is wanted: either the combination of the two departments under a single Minister of Agriculture and Food, or the superimposing on the Food Ministry of a reviewing body as has been done at the War Office with markedly beneficial results.

ENTERTAINING THE TROOPS

A PROBLEM that is becoming urgent with the approach of winter is the "entertainment" of the unparalleled number of troops quartered in every part of the country. It is not only the Dominion troops and the men of many Continental nations who are cut off from their homes. With the leave that they get, West Country men in Scotland, or Scotsmen on the south coast, are just as remote from home. The Army Welfare Officers, who now number over 300, can do a great deal, particularly in developing the means for self-education and in seeking out local talent in the larger units. But the thing that gives the greatest pleasure and rest to civilian soldiers, who constitute the vast bulk of the armies, is to spend a few hours in civilised surroundings now and then, to sleep between sheets and eat off a tablecloth. Lord Nathan has emphasised the need to this end, for "short-leave homes" in the larger centres, where men can find such comforts. But a great deal could be done in small ways by civilians. We are all busy, and rationed, and poor; but that is all the more reason for not appearing to be unsociable with, say, men from the Dominions, who may easily get the mistaken impression that we do not welcome them. It is immensely worth while for everyone, in town or country, to ask himself how he could entertain a few of these splendid fellows in however small a way—if only to a smoke or a drink and a talk. And we should all welcome a circular from our Command Welfare Centre suggesting what we could do, and inquiring what we are prepared to do. The case of our own isolated posts, and of exiled foreign men, equally call for thoughtful effort. In regard to the French forces in particular, the Marchioness of Crewe (2, Albert Gate, S.W.1) appeals for comforts and games. On top of all our other preoccupations, we have got to play the host this winter to an extent we have never before dreamed possible.

"J. J."

THE Master of Trinity—"J. J." as he will always be remembered by many people, was a great man. His scientific achievements can, of course, only be appreciated by men of science; the rest of us can know little more than that he was one of an illustrious line—Clerk Maxwell, Rayleigh, Thomson, Rutherford—who have brought enduring fame to the Cavendish Laboratory. Apart from his work, all who knew him will have unfading memories of a most striking and engaging personality with a flavour all its own. His rather straggling aspect (his razor seemed always a little blunt), his shuffling walk, the little touch of his native Lancashire accent which stayed with him, especially, when, at golf, he talked of putting—these will always be pleasant to remember. So will journeys to and from Royston, where he went for his one weekly and solitary round of golf—thirteen holes between trains. So will his speeches at those periodical reunion dinners at Trinity, to which returned men of different years and epochs. An orator he did not profess to be, but a delightful after-dinner speaker, with a simple and most effective turn of humour, he could be. Kindliness beamed from him, and those meetings, at once so agreeable and so poignant, will not be the same without him.

BERKELEY SQUARE RAILINGS

OPINION may be divided about the gain or loss to London squares resulting from the removal of their railings. There is the æsthetic aspect—the intrinsic interest and value of the ironwork as a work of art, along with which may be set the character of the Square as a whole, to which railings, gardens and houses may all contribute. There is also the consideration that many squares are still entirely or mainly residential, and that their gardens are the common property of the



HARVEST IN WESTMORLAND

Crops above the average are reported from many areas in the North of England, and are now mostly gathered

residents who would lose the privacy and amenities they enjoy were the railings taken away. The recent decision to scrap the railings of Berkeley Square will doubtless be regretted by all those who still cling with fondness to their memories of the Square as it used to be. But it is to be confessed that now that it is engulfed by huge office buildings the railings are something of an anachronism, and though they are of good Georgian design, there are now left only a few of the original houses, on the west side of the Square, with which they harmonise. In its new form the Square may even gain in beauty when the vistas of sun-splashed grass among the shadows of the great plane trees can not only be seen but enjoyed without restriction. It might have been wiser, perhaps, if the Westminster City Council, in its drive to secure scrap metal, had made a start on Leicester Square, where the disappearance of the railings would be regretted by nobody. The Iron and Steel Commission have agreed not to take ironwork of historic and æsthetic interest, and it is to be hoped that the case of Berkeley Square may not be used as a precedent for relaxing this rule in the case of squares where the removal of railings would mean the loss both of fine ironwork and the amenities enjoyed by residents.

THE SNAPDRAGON

I love to see
The honey bee
Alight upon
The Snapdragon,
And, hanging, grip
Its under lip,
Pull its mouth wide,
Then slip inside
To steal anew
Of honey dew;
But stealthily those
Lips then close,
Imprisoning
The adventurous thing.
And, even though
He will, I know,
In his own time
With art sublime,
Content and stout
Squeeze himself out,
I hold my breath
Dreading his death—
That, ere he quit
His thieving, it
One day might hap
Some flaming snap-
Dragon might wake
To thought, and take
Umbrage at the
Marauding bee,
And while he sips
Might snap its lips
With gesture grim,
And swallow him.

ELIZABETH SHANE.

WHY THE POOR SIREN

WHAT'S in a noise? A great many people seem to be incensed by the song of the sirens and are trying to bury them under a pile of abusive correspondence. Perhaps they write their letters to newspapers when they are in their air-raid shelters and want something to distract their minds. Otherwise it is hard to believe that they might not be better employed and that there are not many more important things to worry about. No doubt the warning note is a melancholy one, but would it be any more welcome if it were superficially cheerful or defiant, and is it not largely a matter of association? The "aiders passed" signal is a penetrating blast, but nobody complains of it: siren do not say that it may be doing our sensitive organisms incalculable harm; our spirits rise at it perceptibly. Suppose the two notes

were exchanged, would not our sentiments be exchanged also? We should then enjoy the "wailing" note and say with Hippolyte:

I never heard
So musical a discord.

As things are, what we really dislike about it is that it "sings us harm" to our cellars yet again.

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

"Magnificent Views"—Wasp Fifth Columnists—Officers with Monocles—The Barn Owl—Suburban Camouflage.

MAJOR C. S. JARVIS

THE following conversation, overheard in our local branch of a joint-stock bank, gives some idea of the attitude of the countryside toward German bombing raids. America and all the neutral countries—there seem to be very few of these—are taught to believe that the population of Great Britain is cowering in air-raid shelters all day and night, but instead they appear to regard raiding in the light of a show that in the olden days would have cost them a shilling at the Crystal Palace, to quote from the broadcast of Martin Stephens, the rear cockpit gunner. A most benign and sweet-looking old lady, while cashing a cheque, was complaining about the unsatisfactory situation of her house, and the manager sympathised with her.

"I suppose it is rather conspicuous with its white rough-cast against the dark background of trees."

"Oh, it's not that at all," she said indignantly. "I don't mind how conspicuous it is. The truth is it's so very badly situated for seeing things. The belt of trees behind shuts out everything that happens to the north and north-east, there's a big hill with firs on top that blots out everything to the south and south-west, and the only fighting I can ever see is that which takes place to the west, and they never seem to do anything there. Mrs. Mortimer, who lives only a quarter of a mile from me, saw four bombers brought down last week, and I've seen nothing."

It seemed almost as if it were a case that the rural district council might consider sympathetically with a view to the reduction of rates owing to lack of the general amenities that other owners of residential property in the vicinity possess.

NO one has ever suggested that the wasp was a benefit to mankind, though I have heard pro-waspists maintain that they should be protected as they kill flies, but so do we all when we can. Considering the very warm late spring and summer, in every way suitable for mass production, the wasp population is not so excessive as might be expected, and this may be due to a large number of queens being killed off by the severe winter and April frosts. There is an old saying in this part of the world that "a wasp in May is worth a load of hay," but I think this is a slight exaggeration, as, though a dead wasp in May may mean one nest less in the summer, I have never yet found a farmer who would hand over a load of hay, or even one truss, for a dead body of the most fecund-looking female.

Wasps have a very discriminating palate for apples, and when a tree is being heavily attacked it may be taken as very reliable evidence that the fruits are practically ripe and are of vintage varieties, such as Pearmain, Cox's and Ribstons. No self-respecting wasp wastes his time on the large cookers such as Bramley's Seedling, when anything more highly flavoured is available.

The latest charge against the wasp is that he is eating away those paper strips that some of us have pasted on our windows to serve the combined purpose of keeping the light in and splinters out. The reason for this has not been discovered. The wasps may be more interested in the paste than the paper; they may be using the paper for the construction of their nests; they may be erecting something of an anti-splinter barrage themselves; or they may be just ordinary Fifth Columnists employed by Goebbels on sabotage. There is something suggestive of a wasp about Goebbels, and he might be able to work up a very warm *liaison* in this direction.

THE recent case of the "officer in the Tower," Major Wintle, M.C., is one that might have been settled without publicity or recourse to anything quite so drastic as a court-martial. The deplorable part about the whole business was that when the news of the impending court-martial was released to the Press the impression was given that this very gallant officer had malingered to avoid active service abroad, whereas when the details of the evidence were available it was quite obvious that the only reason why Major Wintle tried to evade active service was because it was not active enough. He desired to go to France in the infantry and not to Palestine, then at peace, with a cavalry draft. "Malingering" is a very ugly word, and is not one that should be used to describe Major Wintle's conduct.

The monocle evidence was amusing, as is everything connected with the single eyeglass, but the President of the War Office Medical Board, when he stated that he knew many officers who took their monocles out of their eyes to enable them to see properly, must have been harking back to his Victorian days, George Grossmith, and the Piccadilly "dandies." There are still a few British officers who wear the single eyeglass, but it will be found that invariably it is worn either because of defective eyesight or, as in the case of the Commander-in-Chief in Africa, Sir Archibald Wavell, to hide the fact that a glass eye takes the place of one lost on active service.

A constant and skilful wearer of the eyeglass is Colonel Waters-Taylor, who during the last war acted as instructor to newly arrived Australian troops in Egypt. In the Antipodes the monocle is not popular, being regarded as something suggestive of "side," and one day Colonel Waters-Taylor came on parade to find the whole battalion of Australians wearing their tin identity discs in their eyes. In no

way disconcerted, he picked up his own on its cord, threw it in the air, and caught it neatly in his eye as it descended.

"If you can do that, my lads," he said "you are entitled to wear one. If not, you may take them out."

The Australians meekly took them out, and the episode was closed.

I READ an article recently on the comparative longevity of various species of birds, and it seems remarkable that some, such as the parrot, should live and retain all their faculties for the full three-score years and ten, while other varieties should be amply satisfied with a decade or less. The owl, being a wise bird and a poor stock-getter, probably lives far longer than, say, the sparrow, and there is one member of the breed that I have known for thirty-five years and who ranges the water meadows of the River Piddle at dusk, but as I am ignorant of the life-span of the barn owl I cannot say for certain if the particular specimen I see is really the original bird or his son or grandson, for the family resemblance is very strong. He floats silently along, white and ghost-like, while I am fishing the evening rise in front of Hyde House (Major Radclyffe's seat in Dorset), and, as he passes, turns his head to look enquiringly as if he were asking the usual question put to anglers: "Any luck?" He can afford to do this, for on the whole he does better with the field mice than I do with the trout. It is this turn of the head that strikes one as being so peculiar, because, when one comes to think of it, the owl, owing to the situation of his eyes, is probably the only bird that does it.

One evening when, encumbered with my rod, I was getting through a narrow hole in a hedge, I must have trespassed on to his regular beat, for he came sailing along from the opposite direction and we met face to face, nearly colliding. I stepped back politely and the owl slipped through, giving me as he passed a look which suggested reproof: the

sort of look another motorist gives you when you drive in the wrong direction down a one-way-traffic street.

THE views of suburban back gardens glimpsed from a train window disclose the various devices that have been adopted to cover up the unsightly mess left by the erection of Anderson shelters. Whether the work has been carried out primarily to preserve the beauty of the garden or from a desire to camouflage the construction from aircraft observation, the result is the same and both objects have been achieved. Some garden owners have contrived a dense mass of trailing nasturtium or convolvulus, others have laid out a rockery gay with dwarf and Alpine plants, and one enterprising horticulturist had sown a small sun-basking lawn on top of the shelter on which he just managed to balance four chairs and a table. In fact the camouflage achieved by the average suburban dweller is infinitely superior to that of the Army, who have to content themselves with withered branches or netting strung with leaves and vegetation. A permanent disguise of such a thing as a pill-box is not an easy matter this intensely dry and hot weather, and sods of turf, which normally would retain their greenness and take root, dry off and become brown and lifeless in twenty-four hours, so that they are almost as conspicuous as the concrete they are trying to hide.

There appears to be an idea that camouflage during war dates back only as far as 1915, when one of the most ingenious devices was ships painted with two white bow waves—one at the real bows and one at the stern. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the classics and military history to be able to quote the first mention of camouflage in war, but during the South African campaign the Scots Greys gave their horses a khaki-coloured distemper wash. Also one must not overlook Malcolm of Scotland, when his men cut branches to hide their numbers and, fulfilling the witches' warning, Birnam Wood came to Dunsinane.

A RIDE IN THE CHEVIOTS

THE KEILDER AFFORESTATION AREA, NORTHUMBERLAND

By PROFESSOR E. P. STEBBING

IN the Keilder and adjoining areas on the North Tyne and its tributaries, and away to the east in Redesdale in the county of Northumberland, the Forestry Commission have an area of 90,000 acres, in which afforestation work of a high interest and on a large scale is being carried out. A considerable portion of the land was purchased from the Duke of Northumberland. Generally, it is an upland wild tract of the Northumberland fells with an elevation of from 500ft. to 1,800ft., sheep farming being the chief industry; some of the families engaged having occupied their farms for generations. Modern-day hard economic facts appear to justify their replacement by forests which will witness the rise of a population and industries on a larger scale than the region has yet supported.

The tract of country here dealt with may be described as a series of rolling soft-contoured hills with, usually, smooth crests, as seen from below, and slopes, although abrupt drops and ravines are met with and the apparent crests

are often small plateaux. It is bounded on the south-west by the county of Cumberland, and on the west, north-west and north by the Scottish border. The estate consists of what will be seven future forests, known by the local names of the respective areas, viz., Keilder, Mounces, Whickhope, Tarsset, Chirdon, Warke (a detached area), and Redesdale away to the east.

Having paid a brief visit to Keilder in March last, I was so struck by the work that I determined to try and get back in June. My idea was to ride round it and make some acquaintance with the region. The difficulty,



1.—SITKA SPRUCE IN SMALES PLANTATION, LOOKING SOUTH

Old pine plantation at Smales Farm seen to the left in middle distance

at once put to me by the local district forest officer, was that no one had undertaken such a ride, the region was wild and, except in the south, mostly roadless; and, though a horse would be procurable, since the farmers ride the hills on their respective farms, no one else save the local Hunts rode nowadays. These objections were natural ones to meet, but I was able to carry out my object three months later, a rough itinerary having been kindly drawn up for me.

A few remarks on the operations being carried out by the Forestry Commission will be necessary before retailing the experiences of the ride.

The afforestation work in the region commenced in the south at Smales in September, 1926. The total area planted to date amounts to 18,845 acres, comprising areas in Keilder, Mounces, Whickhope, Chirdon, Redesdale and Warke. The work has been recently intensified so that a total of 3,928.4 acres was planted in 1940.

The chief species used are Sitka spruce, Norway spruce and, to a lesser extent, Scots pine. Sitka spruce is planted on peat, gins, or more in depth, either calluna or molinia; peat; Norway spruce on the same type of ground but below the 650ft. contour; Scots pine on less than 5 ins. peat, on stony ground, and generally wherever the peat is not deep. It should be added that scirpus and cotton-grass plus sphagnum indicate very bad ground (my own experiences convinced me of this) which, it is said, will require much drainage before it can be planted. Sitka spruce is planted up to 1,200ft. in sheltered localities—the average maximum height being 1,000ft. Norway spruce up to 700ft. in sheltered ground—the average maximum height 650ft. Where scirpus



2.—ABOVE HIGH LONG HOUSE
The author on Molly



3.—THE "GIRDLE STONE" ON THE SUMMIT OF THE WHITE CRAGS

A corner of Catcleugh Reservoir in the Rede Valley seen in the middle distance, with the Cheviots beyond

and cotton grass are more prevalent Sitka spruce may be planted below 650ft.

The first planting at Smales was carried out by the ordinary method of placing the plants in holes at ground level, the necessary drains being cut. Experience soon showed that a serious check in development resulted. Experiments were undertaken, and what is known as the Belgian method of planting was introduced, in which the plants are placed in the turves cut in making the drains. Space will not permit the detailing of the careful research and practical work carried out, which have resulted in the almost routine operations which are to be seen to-day.

Until recently hand draining only was resorted to, the distance between the drains being 20ft. (thirty-three drains per acre), the turves cut out being spaced at 5ft. by 5ft. for the two spruces, a hole being cut with the circular spade in the turf and the plant placed therein. Scots pine is planted at 4ft. 6ins. by 4ft. 6ins., and is not placed on turves. Ploughing instead of hand draining, though the latter is still carried on, was first introduced here in 1939. The tractor used is a Caterpillar 30. The furrows ploughed are 5ft. apart and the plants planted on the ridges at 5ft. Since the war, *i.e.*, during the last planting season, to

save time and fuel, the distance between the furrows has been increased to 7ft., the plants spaced in the rows at 3ft. It is of interest to note that in Keilder the plough is merely used on peat to drain and provide the ridges upon

It has been said that nearly nineteen thousand acres have been afforested out of the 90,000. Some of the region is above present plantable height, and the more elevated parts will probably always remain treeless. The ride was designed to see examples of all types of ground, and proved of great interest. Starting in the south, the route first went west and then north to Falstone, situated on the railway which traverses the region from S.E. to N.W., as do a road and the River North Tyne. From Falstone to Wickhope and then north up the western part of the area *via* Keilder to Keilder Head, then north-east over the White Crag (1,739ft.) to the Catcleugh Reservoir on the well known Carter Bar road into Scotland; south-east down this road to Rochester, in Redesdale country; from Rochester on a general south-east line to Rookin, Tasset, Hauchope Hill and back to Falstone, a route of some eighty odd miles as ridden in four days.

Adventure started on the first morning, when, after picking up my mount, a stout white cob named Molly, I left Bower Farm for a ganger's cottage by a track clear enough, no doubt to a local resident, but, as it proved, unrecognisable among the fell grass and heather to a stranger. I got lost, and thought



4.—KEILDER BURN VALLEY, LOOKING NORTHWARDS TO KEILDERHEAD

which to plant. On the Yorkshire moors the Commissioners have used the plough and subsoiler for a different purpose—*viz.*, to break up an existing pan of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to 2 ins. thick, thereby aerating the soil.



5.—DESCENDING FROM WHITE CRAGS

Looking back from the middle of Catcleugh Reservoir (surrounded by trees)



6.—LOOKING UP REDESDALE FROM ABOVE BLAKEHOPE-BURNHAUGH

Young plantations on the east of the Rede Burn

once again of the COUNTRY LIFE Cross-country Rides, when diverse opinions were held on the possibility of riders sticking to a carefully drawn-up itinerary. However, after an hour and a half I reached the cottage, but on the wrong side of a rocky stream. When at last my shouts to be shown the crossing of this obstacle were acknowledged, the ganger admitted that he had thought at first I was a parachutist. Such are the perils of rural rides in war-time! As he was going into Falstone that afternoon to get his weekly supplies, he undertook to show me my way.

On leaving the cottage we climbed up White Hill, all planted, and then crossed a strip of fell land to the uppermost south-west corner of Smales plantation, elevation 1,100ft., dropping from there to 600ft. and Smales Farm, which lies at the lower edge of the plantation. Smales has been already alluded to as the area where the Forestry Commission began their work and carried out the research and experiments which have led to the great success achieved in so short a period both in the selection of species and the choice of soils (and elevation) upon which to plant them. The earlier plantations at Smales, the forerunners of the great forest which is to cover this wild stretch of hills, are well worth seeing, as the illustration (Fig. 1) indicates. It was taken from the saddle, and I did not at first make the necessary allowance for Molly's superabundance of rough mane. From Smales I rode to Stannersburn and on to Falstone, where I arrived at the somewhat primitive but withal comfortable Gamecock Inn.

The mare, Molly, was a revelation. I had not been on her back fifteen minutes before I realised that all I had to do was to sit still and leave her head alone. She had an uncanny instinct for nosing out ditches covered with the coarse grass (we must have crossed a hundred during the day) and working her way down and up the gullies; down steep gradients she side-stepped in a fashion of her own. Get a local cob if you want to ride this country with comfort and pleasure.

The second day presented a variety of country. With the Falstone forester on a bicycle, we went west through the beautiful Whickhope Valley to the Crangleugh plantations of 1934 and 1935, where some interesting work and remarkable growth of Sitka spruce were to be seen. A keeper, whose services were obtained by chance, then took me through the lower part of Crangleugh, by a track which I could never have kept to alone, and then up the hill and over the wild and dreary Burnt Town plateau (1,200ft.), which was very boggy and unpleasant riding, the mare disliking it intensely. There are fearsome bogs on these hills and she knew it. From the edge of this plateau there was a gorgeous view. Half left below lay High Long House Farm with the Longhouse Burn running down the glen and a vista of the distant hills beyond. We dropped down to the burn, followed it (fording it several times), and ultimately reached Kielder, my destination: six hours in the saddle and twenty-two miles. Kielder Castle in a romantic setting is well worth a visit.



7.—MILES OF MOORLAND ROLLING EASTWARD FROM NEAR GIB SHIEL FARM

Next morning, at the Castle, I met Mr. Forsyth, the district forest officer, who had provisionally drawn up the line of my tour, and was to be my companion the last two days. We trotted north up a stony track near the Kielder Burn for a mile or two, arriving at the East Kielder Farm, where we were to pick up a young shepherd as a guide. Our destination was the Redesdale Vale, away to the east.

A mile or two up from the farm we were able to study on the hillside across the burn the planting at Scalp. The ridges and furrows torn out by the Caterpillar 30 tractor were easily seen. Farther up the White Kielder Burn the little valley gradually constricted and the country took on a more menacing aspect, very wild and beautiful, and the riding became more difficult. At length we reached the foot of the last bastion of the White Crag. At the summit, a small rising plateau covered with the tell-tale cotton grass and scirpus, the shepherd dismounted and signed to us to do likewise, and for fifteen minutes we led across rough, squelchy, boggy and often quaking mass. We reached *terra firma* at the famous Girdle Stone (1,739ft.), visited by tourists, who come up the shorter distance from the other side. The stone is a large flat mass which projects over the slope to the east (Fig. 3). To the north, some three and a half miles as the crow flies, Carter Bar and the Scottish border were easily seen, and beyond in the misty distance loomed the Lammermoors and what must have been the Pentland Hills, Edinburgh way.

We descended to the reservoir, which is surrounded by a belt of conifers, and a rough track took us to the reservoir dam, which we crossed and then followed the main Carter Bar-Rochester road for seven miles to the Redesdale Arms at Rochester. The country we have traversed on the east side of the Kielder Burn and the west of the White Kielder has yet to be planted by the Commission. After crossing the White Crag and dropping into the Redesdale Valley, planting work is again to be seen. To the east of the road we passed a young plantation of Scots

pine at Byrness. On the other side, between the road and the River Rede, in the neighbourhood of the Blakehopeburnhaugh Farm, there are plantings of spruces, as the photograph which shows this remarkably named farm depicts (Fig. 6). We at length arrived at the "first hotel in England," the Redesdale Arms, distance 22 miles.

Molly the cob, though picked up off grass and allowed to run each night of the ride, came up keen and fresh on the last morning, although we had already done some sixty miles of rough going together. We left the "Last Hotel in England" before 9 a.m., and rode north up the main road till we turned off it to the right, forded the Rede, and arrived at Woolaw Farm. The idea was to ride due west and hit off the old road, which runs north to south over the hills, beyond the Rookan Farm. Only sheep-tracks are available, but, with the help of the two farmers, and after fording a couple of streams, we reached it on the crest of a ridge. I felt I had something definite to cling to, for, old and rough as it was, it could be seen running across the hills for several miles. The weather, which has been always threatening during the past three days, was uncomfortable, with a strong, blustering wind throughout the day and three heavy rain squalls. But from the old road there were some wonderful views up here (1,140ft.), range on range of softly rounded hills rising in tiers or merging the one into the other. Several hours' cross-country riding brought us to Highfield Farm, where all difficulties were over. We were within four miles of Falstone, the end of the ride, and my companion knew the way. After crossing the plateau beyond the farm in the teeth of the worst of the rain squalls, we came to its edge, in sunlight once more, and looked down on the North Tyne Valley and Falstone, with, beyond, half left, the Smales plantations that I had ridden through three days before (Fig. 9). We dropped downwards over Hawkhope Hill and its plantations, and reached Falstone, where I unsaddled and said good-bye to Molly, my companion in a ride of eight miles odd.



8.—"THE LAST HOTEL IN ENGLAND"
The Redesdale Arms, at the start of the last day's ride



9.—FROM HAWKHOPPE HILL TOWARDS FALSTONE AND THE NORTH TYNE VALLEY. In the left background, Smales Plantation, the end (and beginning) of the ride

THE NEGLECTED EEL

A SUPPLY OF EXCELLENT FOOD FROM OUR OWN RIVERS

IN these days, when the importance of conserving and improving the food supplies of the country is paramount, a great deal more attention might be paid to the garnering of a rich harvest which is to a very considerable extent neglected—the eels.

Most of our so-called coarse fish have not a very high value as food, and, although appreciated on the Continent, have but little vogue in this country, where in normal times there are cheap and abundant supplies of sea fish. Pike are excellent eating, and small pike are not to be despised, although the number of small Y-shaped bones condemns them in the opinion of many people.

But eels, especially the mature silver eels which are, as is often thought, a separate species but merely the adult stage of the one and only fresh-water eel, *Anguilla vulgaris*, are in a class of their own from a food point of view. Analysis has shown that they may contain up to nearly 33 per cent. of fat and a fuel value of 1,335 calories per pound, which I think, speaking without the actual figures, is higher even than that of salmon.

We are a curious people. I suppose we always have been, for the term "mad English" dates from goodness knows how far back. We are insular in more ways than one, but it is surely carrying eccentricity to extremes to import something like two thousand tons of eels annually in peace-time when we have in our rivers some of the richest eel waters in Europe. Most of our imports came from Denmark, with others from Holland, France and Eire, and all but the last are now cut off. To carry our insular eccentricity still further, we not only neglected our eel fisheries but we allowed the Germans to set up a depot for capturing eels at Epney on the Severn, and in pre-war days some six million were exported annually.

The natural history of the eel was for long a complete mystery. Our ancestors had no end of queer ideas about them: that they bred from pieces of horsehair which got into the water, or were generated from the putrid bodies of drowned animals; another tale was that they came from a particular dew which fell on the banks of some rivers in May and June. Now, however, thanks chiefly to the investigations of the Danish scientist, Dr. Johannes Schmidt, between 1904 and his death in 1933, the life history of the eel is well known.

Eels reverse the procedure of another of our migratory fish, the salmon, which begins life in fresh water, migrates to the sea, and remains there until mature and ready to breed, and then returns to fresh water for the purpose. Eels spawn in the sea, and it is believed that those from the whole of Europe, including the Mediterranean, breed in the same place, far out in the Atlantic Ocean in the neighbourhood of the Sargasso Sea.

After the eggs hatch the larvæ are carried east and north-east by ocean currents until they arrive at the various rivers as elvers, 2½ ins. to 3 ins. in length and about three years old. Their stay in fresh water is a comparatively lengthy one, and by the time they reach their final metamorphosis from brown or yellow to silver eels, before migrating to the sea, the males of 12 ins. to 20 ins. in length are from 7½ to 11½ years old, while the females 14 to 26 inches in length average some two years older. Five pounds is a big weight for a fresh-water eel, but many larger

have been recorded. "Trent Otter," the angling writer, caught two on night lines which weighed 7lb. and 8lb., and he mentions one taken in a Norfolk drain of 30lb., and another, shot in the Welland, of 25lb. One which weighed 16½lb. was caught in a net in the Whitadder in 1926. No one seems to have examined the age of these enormous eels.

The species is far more widely distributed than many people imagine, and is by no means confined to the sluggish, deep and muddy rivers. The rapid, rocky streams of the moors and moun-

In some rivers—the Suffolk Bure, for example—there are eel fisheries by means of nets placed across the stream, leaving gaps in which special traps are fixed. Individuals who own, or have access to, rivers for fishing may catch eels in various ways. One is "babbling" with a bunch of big worms threaded on worsted and let down on a line attached to a short pole. The eels seize hold of the worms and are lifted into the boat before then can or will let go, sometimes half a dozen at a time. I have spent many a pleasant summer evening

"babbling" on the Deben below Woodbridge, where on good nights the professionals catch several hundred. They are mostly small, running five or six to the pound as a rule. The larger eels are got by "pritching" or spearing them as they lie in the mud banks at low water.

Many eels can be caught in wire or osier traps baited with rabbit entrails or other offal, and I still remember the thrill as a small boy of getting up early in the morning to go round the night lines I had set in the deeper holes of the small, muddy brook close to where I lived in Suffolk. The intense excitement of feeling that something had taken the bait of a couple of big worms or a small dead fish lingers yet in my memory and once I caught what seemed like Leviathan itself, an eel weighing over three pounds.

HOW TO COOK EELS

Skin the eel by cutting an incision round the neck, hold the head down with a fork and strip the skin away like a glove to the tail. Then remove the guts, and slightly grill or roast the eel so that the oil comes out, and wipe down with a cloth. This eliminates the sometimes too strong flavour and muddiness of eels. When in doubt as to whether the eels may be very muddy, soak in salt water for a day, and change the water several times.

In general, eels should be cooked in a "Court bouillon" of white wine, bay leaf, onion, carrot, clove, and chopped parsley. If desired, they can be served like this as plain stewed eel, or can be set aside, cooled, egg- and breadcrumb-crumbed, fried, and served with a Tartare sauce. Cold jellied eel set in a white-wine jelly of its own juice is ideal.

Eels au vert.—Chop the prepared eels into pieces about 3 ins. long, and add half the quantity of chopped sorrel to which a liberal proportion of parsley, chervil, mint and herbs have been added. Cook all together with a piece of butter the size of a nut for about a quarter of an hour, and fairly fast, then add a wineglassful of white wine or a sparing dash of lemon juice.

Eel Pie.—Fill the dish with the eels cut into small pieces and season with salt and pepper. Add a gill of water or veal broth, cover with good paste, brush over with the yolk of an egg, and bake for an hour. When done, make a hole in the centre and pour in, through a funnel, the following sauce. Boil the eel trimmings in half a pint of veal stock, seasoned with pepper, salt and a tablespoonful of lemon juice, thicken with flour and water strained through a sieve. This should be boiling hot when added to the pie.

Collared Eel.—Split the eels, lay on their backs, grate some nutmeg over them, lay on each two or three blades of mace, a handful of parsley shredded fine, a few sage leaves, and season with pepper and salt. Roll them up, tie in a cloth, and boil in salt and water for three-quarters of an hour. This dish can be eaten hot or cold.



CATCHING EELS WITH THE DUTCH EEL NET. A RECENT DEMONSTRATION AT CROWLAND FEN BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

tains, home of trout and sea trout, hold eels in plenty, but, because they are in great measure nocturnal, especially the big 'uns, their presence is often unsuspected, as also is the damage they do.

There is not the least doubt that they are extremely destructive to all other species in the water. They eat much ova—chiefly, it is true, of those species which spawn in spring. Large eels also devour quantities of small fish, and investigations in one Irish lake showed that they did far more execution among trout than did pike. They have also been known to band together like wolves to attack large fish, such as salmon, when they were sick, chasing the victim about until it was exhausted and then literally eating it alive.

The annual migration of the mature silver eels on their last journey to the spawning grounds takes place in the autumn, and they have then reached their fullest growth and finest condition. Their capture on a commercial basis is a comparatively simple business. Where there are weirs or hatches across rivers, or in the outlets of lakes, fixed traps can be constructed which will catch a large percentage of the total run. But it is important in waters which hold salmon and sea trout that the law which lays down that eel weirs and fixed traps must only be worked during the last six months of the year should be strictly enforced, because if they remain set in the spring the smolts will be destroyed.

THE FARMER'S WAR

IX—ESSEX. By S. L. BENSUSAN

Corn, milk, market gardens, fruit, make up the 700,000 acres of agricultural land in "the Granary of London." The farming population is no less mixed. In spite of a winter that sorely hindered work on the stiff clay, this summer's harvest has rewarded the regenerative effort that is being made.



AN EXPANSE OF BARLEY AND WHEAT IN THE CHELMER VALLEY, NEAR THAXTED

On Mr. Barnard's Parsonage Farm

MORE than twenty years ago a newspaper asked me to take a six weeks tour through England to see what work was being done to increase production. The war was ending, but our needs were urgent. I went by train to the west and cycled from Perranporth on the Atlantic to Cromer on the North Sea, across the breadth of England. Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Oxford, Berkshire, Herts, Cambridge, Lincoln and Norfolk were the counties visited, and on leaving the last I returned home *via* Suffolk and Essex.

A great effort had been made and a spirited attempt to utilise tractors, then in the early stages of their development. Dead or mortally wounded Fordsons with the unpopular Oliver ploughs were to be met nearly every day, and at the time horses were being praised as never before by amateur motor ploughmen who, when anything went wrong, would leave a machine to rust in the track and vow they were well rid of it. This trouble was common on the arable of all counties; it was, with one exception, the most outstanding fact I encountered.

The other was far more encouraging: it was the presence in every county of an agricultural committee that was changing the face of rural England. From Cornwall, where Lady Molesworth St. Aubyn and Mr. Hawke had the situation so well in hand, to Norfolk, where Mr. Raynes, happily still with us, was at work, the varied problems were treated with knowledge and discretion. It looked as though agriculture were coming back to its proper place in the national economy.

There have been many disappointments since those far-off days, but the groundwork done by agricultural committees prepared the road for dealing with the present crisis. There are plenty of good men, and women too, left with us who faced greater difficulties than those now before the country, for to-day we have thousands, tens of thousands of efficient machines for rapid and economical production, together with a far better knowledge of our own potentialities and the best use to which food can be put. It is impossible to refer to these matters without a tribute to Sir George Stapledon, Sir John Orr, and Sir John Russell, the worth of whose long labours is now fully recognised.

Essex, the one-time granary of London, takes a prominent place in the story of the new endeavour. I have paid a visit to the best and worst of its farmlands. The War Agricultural Committee works from Writtle, near Chelmsford, in the new building that was so recently and will be again the East Anglian Agricultural Institute, and the organiser is Mr. J. C. Leslie, M.A., B.Sc., who recently resigned his post as Principal of the Institute after carrying on the work with complete success for ten years. The Chairman, Mr. Unwin Kemsley, is popular, trusted and competent.

It is not a small job to handle the affairs of a county in which no Hundred is quite like its neighbour, in which 700,000 acres are farmed and the great majority of the farmers are men who have made Essex their home, though their fathers were not born within its boundaries. The War Committee has to deal with sturdy

agriculturists from the Lowlands of Scotland, Yorkshire, the County Palatine, Devon, Cornwall, and many another county; they are sons of men who came to Essex in the late eighties of the last century after the native farmers had succumbed to hard times. In a county of such varied soil and of such varied population it is clearly impossible to act without thought for the special circumstances of each case, a fact known and recognised by the War Executive Committee which is exercising large powers with an equally large discretion, realising each man's difficulties and helping, if not to remove, at least to ease them. Perhaps all committees are not using their powers to the full, and this may prove a source of weakness.

Essex raises all kinds of farm produce—corn in the Roothings, the Tendring Hundred and along the estuaries of the Blackwater, Crouch, Colne and Roach; milk on the London clays from Chelmsford to the Thames and Epping to Southend; a Lincolnshire-like profusion on the brick earth round Rainham, seeds from Witham to Colchester, market-garden produce round Rochford, orchards towards the Suffolk borders. Had prices been stable in the past few years Essex would have been as prosperous and agricultural a county as any in England, despite the encroachment of the urban builder, but a succession of bad years following the repeal of the Corn Production Act has reduced many men and much land to desperate straits.

THE EFFECTS OF BAD YEARS

It followed inevitably, and indeed has been the prime cause of the difficulties attendant upon a good start, that when the first summer came to the industry, the response of Essex was governed by the actualities of the case. "To do what I've been asked to do" said a heavy-land farmer, "I want machinery, more labour, and the money to pay for both; I've no money that isn't in the land. I could do the work and produce the goods if I had the material, but the bank won't take good will as a substitute for a credit balance." His was a typical case. He was farming extensively, and just getting a living, while year by year his assets dwindled. On my long road across the three-horse farmland area I was to meet many like him. Since then the Essex War Agricultural Committee has grown busy and



MR. J. C. LESLIE
Executive Officer, Essex War Agricultural Committee



W. F. Taylor

AN ESSEX VILLAGE: FINCHAM

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improved the situation by dint of steady and intelligent effort—a much harder job than a few words on paper can express. Armed with full powers to act for the Government within the area they control, they have many ways of helping the county effort through those farmers who are willing but not quite able to respond to the needs of the hour. They can render first aid promptly and effectively and with a minimum of publicity.

They offer expert advice where it is needed, can bring much material assistance, including the loan of tractors and credits for feeding-stuffs; can warn farmers who are not making full endeavour to meet national demand, can take over land for a term of years, bring it into good heart, and let it to someone who will keep it there; they can assist production where only the lack of means stands between a good farmer and large crops. To exercise such powers with a very minimum of friction is an effort calling for knowledge, sympathy, discretion, and an eye to the goal to which the nation strives as never before. It is well that the Agricultural Committee of the last war left such a good impression on the minds of fair-minded men. This has been a real asset. Perhaps their weak point is that prominent farmers as a class have too many friends in their own county and are inclined to be too easy-going: they are reluctant to criticise their neighbours' acts of husbandry. Even in Essex I have met cases where stricter measures

than those enforced would appear to be called for. But we have to admit that the county was sorely tried last year when it was invited to plough up 40,000 acres; experts say that in the circumstances it was a great achievement to break 26,000, for the weather helped the enemy.

We have to remember that down to October, 1939, the heavy clays were hard as concrete as a result of drought; then came a month's flooding which made the land sticky down to mid-January, when snow and ice took charge till the end of March. That is why it was very hard to complete the normal programme and impossible to handle the new one satisfactorily. In 1939 the proportions of Essex farmland were 400,000 arable and 300,000 grass; next year they will be 450,000 arable, much of it in better condition than it has been for a long time, and 250,000 grass. You find promising fallows everywhere, and after harvest much grass of too long standing will be taken in the tractor's stride.

A HOPEFUL FUTURE

There are problems. Some farmers are standing men off, not because they don't need them but because of the high wages, and this question must be dealt with promptly and seriously. There is little excuse, for if a man is a good farmer, if he comes into the first of the three classes A, B, C, he can get help with labour, machinery, manures, and feeding-stuffs;

the War Executive Committee has power to give him credit and lend him everything but cash. If he belongs to Class B, the class of the moderately good men, and he will follow instructions, he can also have help; while if he is in Class C and is not farming properly, his land may be taken from him. There is a great and natural reluctance to do this, but it might help the country if the Committees—not only in Essex—would harden their hearts for the sake of the urgent needs of their fellow-citizens. To help those who can and will help themselves, and to dispossess those who are not turning the land to best advantage, is the policy the country must demand if necessary food stuffs are to be assured in spite of all the mischance of war.

Essex, a county of varied agricultural excellence, recognises this truth. I asked Mr. Leslie if he could sum up in a sentence the spirit of the farmer. "One word will do," he said; "call it 'splendid.' Next year we shall be in our stride and not only show a much larger arable acreage but a greatly improved one."

After going over more than 100 miles of rural Essex I am satisfied that this is no idle boast. Though the drought has hit the county hard, for the second year in succession, you can see the new purpose stirring on farms that a few years ago looked lifeless; indeed, activity and good fighting spirit are more in evidence in the fields to-day than they have been since the Corn Production Act was repealed.

TO MICHAEL

Sing, nightingale, and summer birds, arise
To drown the broken music of farewell—
The midnight dockyard where the blue light lies,
The moment when there is no more to tell,
The long look, and the brave anticipant eyes,
While the sea waits, and the dark waters swell.

There will be spring again—the new leaf sent,
The blossom lavished, and the rose revealed,
The calm enormous star, the young bow bent
At evening in the cuckoo-calling field,
The squandered beauty that is never spent,
And all the matchless wealth that summers yield.

The spring was ours: sorrow no more to lose
That long and lovely summer of the heart.
Did we less ardently the minutes use
Because the end crowds in upon the start?
We loved, we were alive, let us now choose
To live as though we never had to part,

To love, and turn away from love's possessing,
To feel the joy more instant than the pain,
All ardours of the greedy heart addressing
Towards that past imperishable gain,
And from the fountain of remembered blessing
To drink the stream, and never thirst again.

P. H.



1.—THE SEVERN VALLEY TOWARDS THE BRISTOL CHANNEL, FROM THE TERRACE

HILLES—II, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

THE HOME OF DETMAR BLOW

Built as his own home by the late Detmar Blow in 1914. The treatment of the interior reflects many of the intentions of William Morris

RUSKIN, who had discovered the young architect drawing the church at Abbeville (does that frail masterpiece yet stand?), introduced Detmar Blow to William Morris, Burne-Jones, and the circle of practical idealists whose teachings were indirectly to revolutionise European architecture and design. In England the name of Morris has

become associated mainly with the revival of traditional arts and crafts as an end in itself, whereas in fact, of course, this was no more than one of the means that Morris encouraged to the end of restoring a modern æsthetic of design. He showed that, in the works and methods of the traditional craftsman, the principles of virile design were to be found: fitness for



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2.—FROM THE ANGLE OF THE BASTION. THE SOUTH SIDE AND THE GABLE TOWARDS THE VIEW

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3.—THE LONG ROOM, MELLOW AND RICH IN ATMOSPHERE
Panels of Mortlake tapestry after Raphael's Cartoons

purpose, understanding of materials, honesty of expression. His limitation, imposed by the sociological side of his philosophy, lay in his insistence on handicraft and refusal to recognise the potentialities of the machine as an ally—an inhibition that it was left to his Continental disciples to overcome.

Hilles, to a large extent, exemplifies the wider aspect of Morris's teaching as understood in this country, and as developed by an admirer with great abilities of his own as an artist. His influence is traceable in the general unaffectedness of the arrangement and treatment, the sensitive use of simple materials, and the perceptive selection of such antique furnishings as display the principles of fine craftsmanship besides introducing the appropriate effects of colour and shape. Much of this was due, of course, to Mr. and Mrs. Detmar Blow's personal tastes and associations, and reflects the preferences of the George V period. But the aspects of the latter stressed here undoubtedly derive, in common with so much that is best in contemporary taste, from William Morris.

The front door, on the north side, gives into the staircase hall (Fig. 4), where it can be seen just beyond the lower flight of the staircase. This oak staircase was made by Detmar Blow for Little Ridge. When that house grew into the present Fonthill House, Mr. and Lady Mary Morrison gave the staircase and the kitchen dresser to Hilles. In front of its foot an arch gives into the Stone Hall, beyond which is the garden porch. East of the Stone Hall is the dining-room (Fig. 9) with the kitchen, illustrated last week, beyond it; west of it, separated by an Elizabethan oak screen (Fig. 4), lies the Long Room with an oriel window (Fig. 3) at its far end commanding the great view across the



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4.—THE SCREEN OF THE LONG ROOM; BEYOND IS THE STONE HALL
Elizabethan; formerly at Seckford Hall, Suffolk



6.—PORTRAIT OF DR. JOHN BLOW THE COMPOSER 1648—1708; A PORTRAIT AT HILLES, PROBABLY BY SIR PETER LELY

5.—THE STAIRS AND ENTRY HALL FROM THE STONE HALL



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7.—ELM TREADS AND CEILING: THE UPPER FLIGHT OF STAIRS

Severn Valley. In the evening the sun sinks behind the distant Black Mountain, and through the oriel one sitting in front of the fire can watch the night slowly fall over Wales.

The Long Room has a mellow, rich atmosphere, its tapestried walls and elm-board ceiling counteracting the light of the three ample windows. The tapestry, two magnificent pieces of the Mortlake series woven from Raphael's cartoons, and formerly at Loudon Castle, cover the entire wall opposite the windows and fireplace. Its dominant colours, deep red and peacock blue, are developed in the carpet, of Turkish type but designed by Morris and made at Merton Abbey; and by old coral red curtains of Spitalfields silk.

The Elizabethan screen was made for the hall of Seckford Hall, near Woodbridge, Suffolk, where it had a balustraded gallery above. It is illustrated *in situ* in "English Homes," Period III, Vol. I, when Seckford was in an advanced stage of dilapidation. During the last war the screen was unfortunately sold out of the house, and was subsequently acquired for Hilles after it had passed through several hands. It was found to fit its present place exactly, without any alteration of height or width.

Another oak screen, with an open balustrade at the top divides the Stone Hall from the dining-room. On either side of it there hang two magnificent old English needlework carpets, both probably of the late seventeenth century. The dining-room (Fig. 9) is lit at either end and is very characteristic of the house with its whitewashed walls, elm doors and ceiling, and plain stone chimney-piece filled with a wrought-iron range. The Royal arms above it, of James I, is a cast from a carving at Dorfold Hall, Cheshire, the home of a branch of Mrs. Blow's family, the Tollemache's. A cast was made for Lord Kitchener for Broome Park, and he gave this duplicate to his friend. Opposite the door to the kitchen, on the left of Fig. 9, another gives into the stair hall. It is a dramatic ascent. The first flight, almost without balustrade, leads to a broad landing

the width of the little wing that contains the stairs and entry. Thence it ascends to the first floor flanked by blind walls which are hung with portraits of the Stuart kings and old silks (Fig. 7). There is also a fine family portrait (Fig. 6) of Dr. John Blow, the composer, an ancestor of the present family. He holds a musical setting of the words *Laudate Dominum in Chordis et Organo. Allelujah.* J. B. Mus. Doc.

A peculiarity of the house, derived from traditional precedent, is that only the exterior walls are of masonry. The partitions are of timber—wrought oak screens on the ground floor, elm board studding on the floor above. The boards, used vertically, are thick and wide, and of a lovely silvery colour (Fig. 10). Through the door in this view is seen a Morris tapestry of Botticelli's "Primavera"—an exquisite and faithful rendering of the famous picture which is peculiarly well adapted to translation into this medium. Another bedroom (Fig. 8), characteristic of several, with its mahogany four-poster hung with a Morris cretonne, shows an effective imitation paneling, formed of sheets of three-ply and lengths of moulding nailed on, the whole painted white. Morris might not have approved, if he had noticed the deception; but he might well have overlooked it, for it is both convincing and effective.

The observant reader may have noticed from these illustrations that Hilles appears not to have electric light. Actually this is not the case; there are reading, passage and dressing lamps. But as much use as possible is made of candles. This abstention from progress, or at least its limitation, helps to create the restful, remote personality of this house perched above the restless world, and is characteristic of the aim of its designer. It must not be dismissed as conscious anachronism, wilful retrogression, escapism, or such other abusive terms that the children of progress cast over their shoulders. Peace, quiet, happiness seem now all too truly to belong to a past age. Detmar Blow knew how to compound those precious elements. Here, looking towards the sunset, we may well envy the wisdom that led him to discovering for himself that the philosopher's stone which changes time itself to gold is, in reality, the stone, the wood, the wax, lying nearest to hand when it is moulded with simplicity of heart.

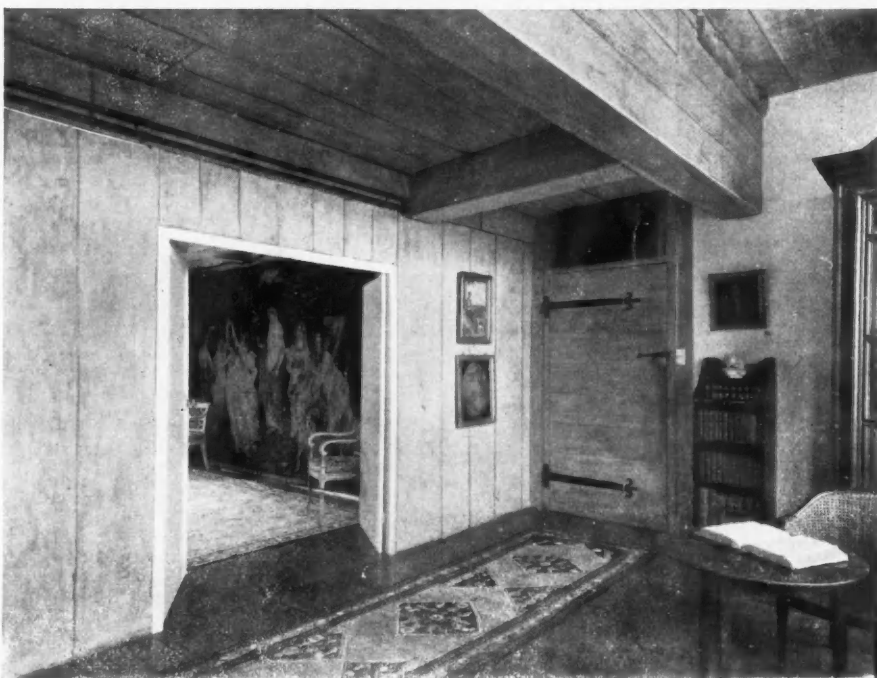
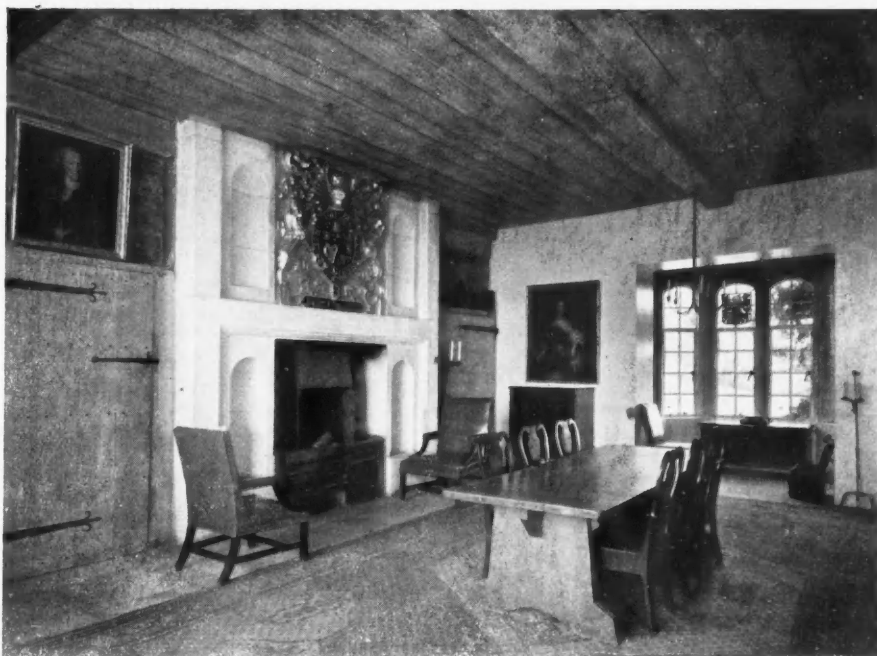
CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY.

(Top) 8.—A BEDROOM.

Painted beechwood chairs and Morris cretonne

(Centre) 9.—THE DINING-ROOM

(Bottom) 10.—THE UPPER PASSAGE. ELM BOARD STUDDING. Through the door, a Morris tapestry of Botticelli's "Primavera."



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CHINA OLD AND NEW

A REVIEW BY C. E. G. HOPE

IN our national preoccupation at the present time we are apt to forget that a war of mighty and portentous proportions is still going on in the Far East, the issue of which concerns us most intimately.

Three books published recently on China make a timely and valuable contribution to our knowledge and understanding of that conflict. They are *JOURNEY INTO CHINA*, by Violet Cressy Marks (Hodder and Stoughton, 21s.); *A CAVALIER IN CHINA*, by the late Colonel A. W. S. Wingate, C.M.G. (Grayson, 15s.); and *INTO CHINA*, by Eileen Bigland (Collins, 18s.).

The first and the last record comparatively recent travels from Burma into Yunnan and to Chungking, Mrs. Bigland's book being the latest; for, after enduring and vividly and terribly describing a Japanese air raid, which puts anything we have suffered so far into the farthing place, she actually left China with only five piastres in her pocket on the outbreak of war. Mrs. Cressy Marks was about a year earlier, and her special contribution is a visit to Sian, the headquarters of the Chinese Communists and the famous Eight Route Army. Both ladies are practised travellers, careful observers, and competent, lively writers, each in her own highly individual way—Mrs. Bigland's book would have lost nothing, by the way, by less preoccupation with sanitary matters, which after a while cease to be either interesting or realistic. Each confirms opinions gained from other sources, that China must win in the end, albeit at the cost of unspeakable suffering and toil, which we cannot begin to visualise, not because of the size of the country or its population, but by reason of the Chinese spirit of religion and cheerful philosophy, indomitable and indestructible.

Our enemies are often our benefactors. Just as Hitler has invigorated and stimulated the spirit of the English people, so Japan has added to the philosophy of the Chinese people a real sense of national patriotism and unity. Mrs. Marks tells again the story of how that unity was finally achieved, and describes lucidly and briefly the historical and religious background of China. And incidentally she is most illuminating about Chinese Communism, which in actual practice has little in common with the despotic imperialism of the Russian brand. Neither it nor our apparent desire to placate Japan should blind us to the fact that the Chinese must be our allies in the steadily expanding conflict between freedom and tyranny in the East as well as the West. And what potent allies they could become, if for once every kind of immediate self and vested interest of policy, finance, extra-territoriality, and all the other curses of our dealings with China could be put aside!

In a more urbane and deeper and equally understanding manner, Colonel Wingate dealt with the same problem in his truly delightful book, the second of those noticed here. He was the first British officer to learn Chinese, and the first to travel along that Burma Road—albeit the opposite way—which has proved so attractive to modern travellers. His was a real exploration, and this country was lucky in its unofficial ambassador; but the present interest and value of his work is that, from a viewpoint of fifty years ago, when the Manchu dynasty was crumbling and the European scramble was beginning, he confirms and complements the observations and opinions of his two most recent successors. He too appreciated the spirit of China, when few did, and the vital importance to the world of an independent and united China. How much more vital now than then!

Having concentrated—without apology—on the political aspects of these three more than timely books, let me add that each is, in its own way, an extremely entertaining and informative book of travel. You can pay your money and take your choice, and you will not be disappointed.

MR. AGATE AGAIN

"You have such a flow of spirits," said Uncle Joseph rather timidly to Michael Finsbury, "I am sure I often find it quite amusing." That is how I feel when I read Mr. Agate—*Ego* 4, by James Agate (Harrap, 18s.)—but I am not only amused

by his wit; I am overwhelmed and shamed by his energy and exuberance, by his power of getting so many things done and done so well. In his diary of "a full day" he sets down as one small item: "3.6-7.45. Read four books. Write 1,250 words for *Daily Express*." And here have I taken two days, between sirens, reading this one book, or, rather, dipping into it very thoroughly, since the author says: "The first condition of these masterpieces is that they should be dipped into, not read." Now, after the dipping comes the reviewing, and how does one review such a feast of fine confused eating? I can only set down some of the disconnected things which I have enjoyed. For instance, I like the account of Sir Edward Marsh insisting on reading two of Rupert Brooke's sonnets "in a voice which made them sound like *The Owl and the Pussy-cat*." Incidentally, that may be high praise, for "The Owl and the Pussy-cat" is a romantic and beautiful poem. I like his account of Matisse seeing a boat about to start for Corsica and seized by a sudden passion for going there. "Mais je n'avais pas beaucoup d'argent avec moi, et puis je n'avais pas le temps d'aviser à l'hôtel ici, alors j'y ai renoncé. Mais"—and this is somehow very touching—"j'avais bien envie de partir quand-même." Then here is a little description, full of colour and sunshine, of a performance of "L'Arlésienne" in the Roman arena at Arles. "In the front row of the so-called balcony—the first tier of the old arena—an enormous negro with a red fez basked and rolled his bilious eyes. Boys whooped and sky-larked, clambering over the tiers, leaping from arch to arch and chasing one another up and down the stone stairway. Seagulls from the Mediterranean—*mouettes* as the peasant of the Midi calls them—wheeled and complained high in the blue." Finally, besides many other pleasant things, do I like his views on his creditors (especially the tiresome Revenue authorities), which are, as he thoroughly appreciates, those of Mr. Harold Skimpole. Here is Mr. Agate: "The trouble is that I understand arithmetic and the Revenue authorities don't. Stanley [his legal adviser] says that they would prefer my smoking a bad cigar, writing a bad article and losing my job, to a good cigar and a good article ensuring the continuance of that job." Here is Mr. Skimpole: "All he asked of society was to let him live. That wasn't much. His wants were few. Give him the papers, conversation, music, mutton, coffee, landscape, fruit in the season, a few sheets of Bristol-board and a little claret, and he asked no more." The Inland Revenue, like Mr. Skimpole's landlord, refuses to be business-like. B. D.

PIONEERS

A military—and not too susceptible—friend who has been driven not a few miles by the modern F.A.N.Y.s—the initials stand for "First Aid Nursing Yeomanry"—tells the reviewer of the cheerful patience, self-sacrifice, and efficiency of the women of this corps in very trying conditions at the beginning of the war. And these qualities plus dogged determination and courage are the keynote of the story of the foundation and growth of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, which is told in *FANNY WENT TO WAR*, by Pat Beauchamp (Routledge, 8s. 6d.). During the Boer War it was realised how many lives were lost through want of immediate care and transport facilities; and the idea was born of forming a band of experienced first-aid nurses who could ride to fill this gap. The pioneers got together in 1909. In spite of the inevitable and strenuous opposition placed in the way of all women's movements just then, their numbers grew; they proved themselves many times in peace; and in 1914 their first contingent was ready for active service—pioneers of all the women's corps that were to come then and now. Soldiers unnumbered know how the "Fannies" passed the ultimate test of war, and their gratitude is real enough. Yet, astounding as it may seem—or does it?—it was not until 1926, after the General Strike, that the Army Council formally recognised the organisation of which it had been glad to make free use for so long. It may be remembered that the force was, and is, voluntary and unpaid. The author had an important share in the work of this corps from the beginning, and lost a leg in France; and a grateful Government repaid her—and, by inference, all F.A.N.Y.s—by refusing her admission to Roehampton Hospital for the fitting of a new limb. Miss Beauchamp speaks feelingly of this episode, but without bitterness; and all through she tells an enthralling tale of women's courage and endurance with cheerful good humour and unbreakable spirit.

BIRDS IN AFRICA

Africa, and South Africa especially, is exceedingly rich in bird life and has many species of great beauty, yet there are but few books dealing with African birds. However, Dr. Austin Roberts now provides *THE BIRDS OF SOUTH AFRICA* (Witherby, 30s.), a most excellent "guide to the species of birds found in South Africa." The

coloured plates by Mr. Norman C. K. Lighton give figures of most of the birds found on land and on the shore that will be very helpful to the person faced with difficulties of identification. There is a foreword by General Smuts and an interesting introductory chapter on ornithology in general and that of South Africa in particular. Altogether the Board of Trustees formed to "secure a complete and up-to-date book on South African birds" have succeeded admirably in their purpose.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Four fifths of Miss Frances R. Angus's *Places, in AS WE ARE* (Bruce Humphries, Boston, U.S.A., \$2), are about Nature, and many of them are pleasing. But the author's best work is in the fifth section, which is about the human part. Miss Angus can give to familiar feelings a touch of originality, and to simple themes a note of distinction. The poet who achieves fame in the subject of one of her most effective pieces, with its finger on the poet's secret dread:

"That with Fame's busy tongue so near
He might not hear
The quiet singing of his heart."

"I Will Go Proudly" is also felicitous in its expression of fortitude under loss and failure.

"No man shall find
Excuse to proffer
The pitying alms
Of his success."

The author uses a variety of irregular forms; for, as she writes in "Expression" (even if she does not altogether realise her ideal):

"I want a rhythm subtler far
Than any I have known . . .
Half rimes, faint echoes . . ."

Her verses are warm, human, sensitive to winds of the spirit.

MR. FORESTER'S NEW WORLD

Don Narciso Rich, a prosperous lawyer who finds himself accompanying Columbus on his third voyage to *THE EARTHLY PARADISE* (Michael Joseph, 8s.), has many qualities in common with Captain Hornblower: his philosophical bent, his strain of diffidence, his humanity. These neither endear him to his companions, the swashbuckling hidalgos who dream only of gold and rape, nor make for good relations with the visionary and high-handed Lord Admiral whose administration of Hispaniola he has been sent by his sovereign to investigate. They do, however, at the risk of heresy, lead him to suspect some of the Admiral's convictions, such as that Cuba is a peninsula of Asia. Although Rich discovers the delta of the Orinoco, Columbus's obsession—and the whole structure of mediaeval geography—forbids the deduction that there must therefore be a vast continent beyond it. Mr. Forester's Lord Admiral is a convincing study of that bigoted genius. But the subsidiary characters scarcely hold one's attention, and Rich's adventures among the friendly Indians and ferocious Spaniards, though interesting, hardly create the tension that readers of Mr. Forester's previous books will expect. What should be the most exciting episode—when Rich is kidnapped by a gang of desperadoes to navigate a ship to search for the fabled cities of Yucatan—comes too late in the book and is dealt with rather summarily, as if the book had been finished hurriedly. Nonetheless, it is well worth reading for the vividly drawn background of the Indies as they must have been before and immediately after the white devils came.

WITH BURGOYNE AT SARATOGA

SERGEANT LAMB OF THE NINTH (Methuen, 8s. 6d.) really did exist, it appears. He published his experiences in the American War of Independence when he was a Chelsea Pensioner, years afterwards, and Mr. Graves has made these two rare books the basis of a biography expanded where necessary from other contemporary authorities. As the works of this other Lamb, so different from his namesake yet in his way as charming, are absent from the British Museum, it is not easy for a casual reader to check the degree of authenticity of his experiences, but they ring extraordinarily true, both in language and detail, and Mr. Graves assures us that he has falsified nothing and invented no main characters, events, or opinions. The result is an absorbing yarn about peace-time service in Ireland, adventures with *habitants* and Indians in Canada, and the disastrous campaign culminating in General Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga in 1777. Yet the British army acquitted itself with great gallantry in face of appalling difficulties, and Burgoyne's failure was due almost wholly to the criminal incapacity of the Government. At a time when the fates of Britain, Canada, and the United States are indissolubly interwoven this "novel" does afford, as Mr. Graves tells us, the writing of it did, "a means of learning what and how the Americans separated themselves from the British Crown," and, incidentally, why the French Canadians did not. He (or Sergeant Lamb) digresses illuminatingly into the political circum-

stances affecting the campaign. But, although it is written as the straight, objective narrative of a well educated soldier, the telling is immensely competent, and the local colour, incidentals, and characters carry us along so briskly that one finds one has swallowed the essentials of a complex and disagreeable (if inevitable) chapter of history with avidity.

BOOKS EXPECTED

Messrs. Macmillan announce for the end of the month a new novel by Sir Hugh Walpole, *THE BRIGHT PAVILIONS*; this adds to the chronicles of the Herries family and is set in Elizabethan times. They are also producing a cheap edition of *GONE WITH THE WIND* at four shillings and sixpence.

The Oxford Standard Authors series of the Oxford University Press is to include *THE POETICAL WORKS*

OF ROBERT BROWNING, a new edition in which all the plays and earlier poems will be bound up. They are publishing in the autumn, in two volumes, *THE JACOBAN AND CAROLINE STAGE: DRAMATIC COMPANIES AND PLAYERS*, by Mr. E. Bentley. Dr. G. B. Harrison is breaking new ground in *A JACOBAN JOURNAL: BEING A RECORD OF THINGS MOST TALKED ABOUT DURING THE YEARS 1603-1606*, expected from Messrs. Routledge in the early autumn.

FINDS IN THE TRENCHES

By MAJOR A. G. WADE, M.C., F.S.A.

ENGLAND has become a fortress. The spade and the mechanical excavator have dug deep into her soil.

When Salonika was turned into a fortress during the Great War years of 1915-19 a body of experts made it their duty to give the official backing of the Commander-in-Chief, which afterwards became an Order—to save all finds of artistic and archaeological interest.

What are the trenches, now being dug all over Great Britain, going to show us?

In archaeology it is the spade that brings to light the evidence of man's rise and fall through the ages. Surface finds may be valuable evidence, but it is under the surface that we find things *in situ*, such as dwelling-places and information of how and where ancient man lived.

Trenches in the past have produced some wonderful records in the way of works of art and handicraft.

Trenches in England, both civil and military have exposed many treasures. A trench dug by the Royal Engineers at Chatham in 1911 exposed the remains of our earliest elephant. This is now one of the principal exhibits in our National Natural History Museum, South Kensington, as Mr. J. Morewood Dowsett reminds us in his letter to *The Times* of August 19th last, where he endorses my plea for observation to be kept on the trenches now being dug for defence.

To take a single area that I know well, it was during the digging of a sewer in Farnham, Surrey, that I was able to see the skeleton of a mammoth, the gigantic beast that roamed over southern England some 20,000 years ago. It was the spade in the hands of a skilled gravel digger that revealed "the famous three" early Stone Age implements now in the British Museum, which settled the question of a palaeolithic succession in Farnham.

From military trenches dug round Salonika during 1915-19 we recovered among other things a very fine Roman milestone, and a memorial stone slab recording that "Manius Salarus Sabinus, Director of Games and Benefactor, in times of want very often took care for the City but more cheaply when prices were high; and provided from his stores for the expeditions

of our Lord Caesar's armies 400 bushels of wheat, 100 of barley, 60 of beans and 300 gallons of wine at a cheaper rate than the market price which was very great. He also contributed 370 Denarii towards the gymnasium equipment fund and on festival occasions made grants for the tables of the councillors and city magistrates and for the citizens who were entertained; and many times proved himself a worthy man in all the other distresses that befel the city."

Surely it is good—if only for example's sake—that such a record should be preserved and widely known.

When Greek labourers were digging a drain for the 29th General Hospital at Mikra Karabournon in 1917 they came across a stone coffin containing the remains and armour of a warrior. His bronze helmet, long iron sword and gold-leaf decoration from his armour were salvaged and are now in the British Museum. The helmet is described as the finest example of its type known and is indeed a wonderful example of the armourer's craft of the fifth century B.C.

To come back to England, from our local gravel pits in the Farnham, Surrey, area the gravel-diggers have brought to light a truly remarkable collection of antiquities, literally enough to fill a large book. Such a book has actually been published by the Surrey Archaeological Society under the title "Prehistoric Farnham."

No other place in the world has produced from a small area such as this so complete a record of man down the ages. Every period is represented, from the earliest Stone Age down through the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages to Roman times, and then the Saxon and mediæval periods. It is indeed a unique collection, the preservation and recording of which has been most ably done by the Surrey Archaeological Society under the direction of Lord Onslow, its President. But every other parish in our land has the material, beneath its surface, to produce an equally interesting, though not perhaps so complete, a history.

To-day the work of salvaging and recording further finds goes on, and my suggestion that military trenches should be watched has met with wide approval. So quickly and so widely

has the suggestion been adopted that there is no doubt about the demand for further information about the rise and fall of man.

From a military trench in the south of England during one brief visit I recovered the following finds:

A flint implement of the later Stone Age period which may have been part of a sickle knife used for cutting the corn.

Two thirteenth-century stone column bases from a near-by abbey.

The Norman culvert for draining the abbey grounds was also discovered, beside mediæval pottery shards and oyster-shells.

But that is not all! Important as the material things are, there is a moral and intellectual side as well. If men when digging know the story of the soil and gravel, the clay and sand, which they shovel, the work becomes a labour of love and interest instead of mere uninteresting toil. Their outlook on life changes, and their methods of living change too. They become better men and so better workmen.

I speak from years of experience. I have taught many a tough old gravel-digger the story of the stones and of the soil he was digging, what had been fashioned by man and what by nature, and so on. The same applies to children. I once played a game with the help of the local schoolmaster. Every child was asked to bring to school something of interest, preferably something that he could not identify. One child, Elsie Lemon, brought a coloured shiny piece of pottery from her father's garden. It was thirteenth-century glazed pottery with the typical finger-pinched base. I asked her if there was any more of it. She said yes, barrow-loads. Elsie's garden at home turned out to be the site of a mediæval potter's kiln, the very thing we archaeologists were searching for, as very few kilns of that period were known.

Our object was to teach the children to read the countryside. The game was popular. Their walk to school became interesting.

I hope to do the same with soldiers now digging trenches. The work can and should be made interesting as well as highly educational, and beneficial both to man and to the State.



A ROMAN MILESTONE found during trench digging on the Seres Road, Salonika, 1916



A MAGNIFICENT BRONZE HELMET Greek 450 B.C. Found during excavations at Salonika for the 29th General Hospital. Now in the British Museum





THE NEW HERB GATHERERS

(Left) DEADLY NIGHTSHADE
(*Atropa Belladonna*)

(Right) HENBANE (*Hyoscyamus Niger*)



MANY years ago, from every country village and hamlet, the women and children went out into the hills and fields to seek for many rare and common weeds. In the early spring they plucked the shining yellow celandine by the handful, and went into the ditches where the young nettles threw up their tender green leaves. Later they stripped the wild raspberry of its leaves, and dug up the tap root of the dandelion. They hunted for elecampane and feverfew, for marshmallow and meadowsweet, and for the deadly nightshade and its poisonous neighbours, thorn-apple and henbane.

They dried these herbs and roots, and from them they made ointments, lotions, medicines and simples of all kinds. No country-wife considered her store-cupboard complete without these home-made remedies from the fields. Her wisdom was handed to her from her mother, or from the wise woman of her district, and she passed it on to her daughters.

We might laugh at these "old-fashioned" remedies now—but the strange fact is that our modern medicines and ointments, stacked in rows round every chemist's shop, are made up from exactly the same herbs and roots.

But we no longer gather these herbs ourselves, for not one in ten thousand of us knows which herbs to gather, nor to what use they may be put. All this wise country-lore has been lost to our generation. Instead, the peasants of Poland, the children of Jugo-Slavia, the country-folk of Belgium and Germany have for years been gathering them for us in their own countrysides.

Taking their sacks and bags, these European peasants have wandered over their mountainsides and through their woods and fields, seeking for the stately foxglove, whose seeds and leaves are paid for so highly—hunting for the roots of the autumn crocus, stripping the wild raspberry leaves high-up on the mountain-side, plucking the leaves of the greater plantain, pulling off the scarlet petals of the poppy, and of the brilliant marigold. All these and many others they dried thoroughly in primitive ways, then packed the herbs and roots into bales and boxes, and sent them—to Britain!

Our herbal importers paid well for these wild herbs, most of which grow by the million in our own countryside. They stacked the bales in their enormous warehouses, and were able to supply the chemists, big firms and small, with all the necessary herbs they needed when compounding their medicines, pills and lotions.

In the war of 1914 we lost our European supply, and endeavoured to gather the herbs from

our own fields and woods—but when the war was over once more the trade went out of the country. Now history repeats itself. We need the herbs badly. We cannot get them from Europe. We could get many from America—but why should we send money abroad and use up thousands of tons of shipping space when these herbs grow in every field and, in some cases such as the shepherd's purse, are found as a weed in every garden? Here is a chance to wander round our countryside, to learn many of our common but valuable weeds, and to gather them in bulk, so that we may help our hospital supplies and lessen the pain of many a wounded man or woman.

I have had the privilege of starting this nation-wide campaign in the schools of Britain. Already thousands of children are collecting the gay ragwort that is such a pest to farmers; they are taking the valuable seeds of the foxgloves, gathering the button-headed tansy, pulling the red clover tops and looking for the coltsfoot leaves. This work is best done in bulk, for the parcels of herbs are usually bought by the whole or half hundredweight, and great shrinkage occurs in the drying.

The following are a few of the medicinal herbs most urgently wanted, from which are made extremely valuable drugs.

Meadow Saffron (*Colchicum autumnale*).—We often grow this in our gardens in small quantities, but it may be found locally in big stretches, the mauve (or sometimes white) flowers springing up alone. The flower is like a slender mauve crocus, but has six stamens instead of three. Both root and seed are wanted. (The root must be dried.) Look for the plant in meadows; much localised in Somerset, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.

Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa Belladonna*).—The most deadly plant in the kingdom. It is

not common, but may be found among old ruins or quarries. Every part of it is very poisonous. Wear gloves to pluck it. The plant grows 3ft. to 4ft. high, and has solitary bell-shaped flowers, in colour a dingy purple. The leaves are large and egg-shaped. The fruit looks like large purple-black cherries, and these are deadly poisonous. The leaves only are wanted. They must be properly dried. (One word of warning—most people confuse the deadly nightshade with the woody nightshade, or bitter-sweet, and think that the latter is the deadly. Remember that the deadly nightshade has solitary dingy purple flowers, quite unlike the bright purple clusters of the woody nightshade with their distinctive yellow cone of anthers.)

Foxglove Seed (*Digitalis purpurea*).—It is not necessary to describe the stately foxglove. It is now seeding, and the ripe black seeds are urgently needed. The seed capsules are to be seen all down the tall stalk. These split when ripe, and the seeds can be easily shaken into a tin. They need not be dried, as they are quite dry when ripe. It would be useful if those who are not gathering the seeds for medicinal purposes could scatter them far and wide, to ensure a good supply next year.

Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*).—The leaves of this extremely poisonous plant are most urgently needed. It is common on waste ground, especially near the sea. It is a stout plant, growing 2ft. to 3ft., and the large leaves are hairy and sticky. The dirty yellow flowers are funnel-shaped, purple-veined, with a dark eye, and are arranged in a double row down one side of the stem. The plant has a most offensive smell. The leaves must be properly dried.

Thorn-apple (*Datura stramonium*).—Another poisonous plant, whose leaves are urgently required in large quantities. It is unfortunately rare, but may sometimes be found growing freely on waste ground. A strong, handsome plant, growing 1ft. to 2ft. It has large white flowers standing erect on short stalks. Smells horrible when bruised. The fruit is an ovate, prickly capsule, hence the name thorn-apple. Large quantities are also wanted of the petals of the common red poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), and of the ordinary marigold (*Calendula officinalis*) which is growing so freely in our gardens now, or as an "escape" by the wayside. The colour of the petals is important, and this must not be dried out—do not dry in the sun.

Messrs. Brome and Schimmer, herbal drug importers, 6, Leather Market, London, S.E.1, will be glad to receive and pay for these herbs at good market prices, provided that parcels of not less than half a hundredweight are sent.

ENID BLYTON



FOXGLOVES (*DIGITALIS PURPUREA*)
The ripe black seeds of the foxglove are urgently needed

CORRESPONDENCE



KELMSCOTT MANOR, WILLIAM MORRIS'S HOME. THE THREATENED ELMS SHOW ABOVE THE ROOFS OF THE HOUSE

ELMS AT KELMSCOTT

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR.—As I am anxious to save some particular elms from the tender mercies of the Government, who have just marked them to be cut down for timber, I am writing to ask your advice as to how it can be done—who should be approached, etc.

The elms in question are an integral part of the beauty of Kelmscott, and are mentioned several times in William Morris' writings. (The house, as perhaps you know, is now the property of Oxford University, to whom Miss Morris left it on condition that it should remain unspoilt: and I am the happy tenant to whom they have entrusted it.) The elms are not actually on our land, but are in a field just across the road, which belongs to the Ecclesiastical Commission, and is leased to Captain Davis of Kelmscott, who would gladly save the trees if it were in his power. The Government can have no substantial excuse for cutting them down, as there are numerous others round that could go without such a terrible effect on the beauty of the place. Nor is it necessary to save all these particular elms, of which there are about five. If two could be saved the view would not be spoilt, but a clean sweep of them all would be the most grotesque vandalism. These elms should stand long after the present war is forgotten! Do please help me to save them now!—EDWARD SCOTT-SNELL.

[A copy of Mr. Scott-Snell's letter has been forwarded to Sir Roy Robinson of the Forestry Commission through the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. In view of the particular attributes of these trees, and the other points adduced, it will be surprising if the Commission—always sympathetic wherever possible in cases of this kind—does not relieve them.—ED.]

"THE FACE OF BRITAIN"

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

So many of our readers have written to us expressing the pleasure which they received from our issue, "The Face of Britain," that we take leave to print some of the appreciations that have been sent to us.

From W. H. W.

"Bravo! COUNTRY LIFE. Your issue of August 24th is a great achievement in these times, a splendid number, and just the thing to take, for a time, one's mind off the dreadful war: revealing so beautifully the glories of this lovely country. I felt bound to write and thank you on behalf of my wife and myself as regular readers. Long may you prosper."

From T. K. C.

"The Face of Britain" number has given me great pleasure."

From E. P. S.

"May I say how very much I enjoyed last week's COUNTRY LIFE? It is an admirable effort and heartily commended. As you said you would in that Leader published soon after the outbreak of the war, you have maintained the high traditions of the paper."

From A. D. B.

"Will you please send a copy of the current number of COUNTRY LIFE (August 24th) to . . . This is a particularly interesting number of your family with photographs of so many places we know, and while I would like to say what a joy it is to receive the weekly numbers of COUNTRY

LIFE are in these times especially, reminding us of all the beautiful things in life."

From H. R. K.

"I must send you my congratulations on the current issue of COUNTRY LIFE; it is grand! You will be interested to hear also, perhaps, that it helped to while away the night hours on Saturday-Sunday while we were up, and I read it in between making my rounds of the house to see that no 'plane had landed any 'eggs' on the roof here! Will you have copies sent for me to the following addresses . . . ?"

It is also very encouraging to find how much in these times COUNTRY LIFE is appreciated in the Dominions. The following is an extract from a letter which we have received from a reader in South Africa:

"I am so glad that COUNTRY LIFE is carrying on, and sincerely hope that it will continue to do so until happier times: it is so completely English. I don't know the secret of it, but it seems to breathe the spirit of the real England, and that is doubtless why it is so beloved by English people the world over."

"FOOD FROM THE SEA"

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—I was much interested in your correspondent's letter on laver from Pembrokeshire. This is extensively eaten on the North Devon coast—in fact, on the opposite side of the Bristol Channel. It grows on pebbles and sand which are uncovered at low tides. It must be washed free of sand and then boiled. It can be stored, but is better quite fresh. It can be eaten plain boiled with meat as a vegetable, or fried on toast as a savoury. My mother insists on it being served very hot, and it has to be brought to the table in a silver chafing dish with a spirit lamp underneath. If one is extravagant, it can be served with a dollop of Devonshire cream. Our old cook recently refused to cook some which I had gathered in the summer, as there was not an R in the month.—G. C. S. OLIVER.

"A GEORGIAN VILLAGE CHURCH"

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—The excellent photograph of Babington Church in your issue of August 24th only calls for one criticism of the accompanying letterpress, headed "A Georgian Village Church." It is

believed that no village has existed in the parish of Babington since the Middle Ages, when it probably became depopulated owing to the ravages of the Black Death, which is recorded to have been virulent in this part of Somerset.

Your readers would be interested if your correspondent, "F. R. W.," could be persuaded to furnish you with a photograph of a third Georgian church in this neighbourhood—should you find space for its publication.

It stands in the small parish of Foxcote, "on a little eminence, rising out of a deep vale well-wooded and abounding with orchards"—to quote Collinson's "History of Somerset," 1791. A local diary in the year 1721 describes it as "the New Church, where on the 19th of December was buried Mrs. Dorothy Smith, widow of the late lord of the manor. Solemnity performed with little Show and Charge. She was a woman of a very close penurious Temper, a very strict Presbyterian & spent much time at her devotions."

Be this as it may, the cost of having erected this "New" church can hardly have defrayed by anyone except this lady, or her husband, who predeceased her by seven years.—HYLTON.

[The Rector of Foxcote-cum-Shoscombe, the Rev. V. H. Copestake, to whom we forwarded a copy of Lord Hylton's letter, has sent us the accompanying photograph of Foxcote Church. He writes:

"Perhaps you may like to have the enclosed photograph with some particulars about the Church of Saint James the Less Foxcote. The photograph was taken by the late Dr. J. E. Stratton.

There are some interesting monuments in the building. A handsome one of white veined marble to Robert Smith Esq.—then patron—who died in 1714.

It is likely that this gentleman or his family caused the present church to be built. In the earliest extant register there is a note made on the fly-leaf: "The New Church open'd the 10th. of December 1721 ye 2d. Sunday in Advent."

Another extract reads: "Madam Dorothy Smith, Widow, was buried December ye 19th. 1721 Oath was made by Mary Gay." The earliest entry is a Baptism, 1691. The church possesses a patent inscribed "1731 Foxcote in Com. Somset." Also a covered chalice of probably considerably earlier date. The Rev. Alfred Odell Elwell, instituted rector in 1869, has left an MS. List of Rectors. The earliest date in 1325. Under an Order in Council, June 1st, 1926, Saint James' became the parish church of the United Benefice of Foxcote with Shoscombe, thus adding acres and population to the parish. This, however, did not mean the addition of any wealthy parishioners.

This interesting church needs careful and sympathetic restoration. A detailed report from Mr. Mowbray A. Green, F.R.I.B.A., R.W.A., is, at the present moment, being sent to the Diocesan Board of Finance, in hopeful expectation of help towards the necessary work. Mr. Mowbray Green estimates a sum of close upon £200 as needed to effect a conservative and careful restoration. The much-to-be-desired replacement in stone of a hideous brick chimney would add to this urgent expenditure.

A small sum, on deposit at the bank, and the gift of the architect's fee, is the present extent of the Restoration Fund.

If any, in these days, who desire the preservation of our lesser treasures would care to help, their gifts, small or large, would be gratefully received and acknowledged."



FOXCOTE CHURCH, SOMERSET (1721)



FRENCH BEANS IN SOHO WINDOW-BOXES

GARDENING IN SOHO

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

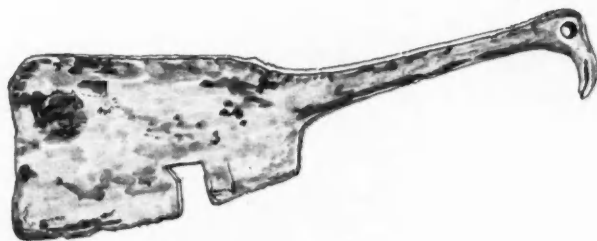
SIR,—Perhaps you may like to let your country readers see how London is replying to the injunction to grow more food. These two window-boxes at second-floor windows of one of the Georgian houses in Lisle Street, Soho, are not only exceedingly cheerful to look at, with their bright geraniums and nasturtiums, but have a number of French bean plants doing well. One can be seen romping away up a wireless aerial towards the roof. If all country efforts were in proportion to this city one, we should be well-provided for indeed.—F. H.

A CURIOUS AXE

TO THE EDITOR

SIR,—For a year or two I have been trying to get information about the axe shown in the accompanying illustration, but so far I have not succeeded. Neither have I been able to trace another like it in museums or in books. All the information I could get about it when I purchased the article was that it had been dug up when some deep excavations were being made. The total length from extreme end of the blade to the finish of the handle is two feet. The blade portion is iron of even thickness, but the handle thickens out and is roughly oval in section. It provides a comfortable grip. The notch in the blade is not an accidental break. It is either part of the design, or has been cut out, but the rust does not enable a definite opinion to be given. It is heavily encrusted with rust all over. The most curious feature is the bird's head design at the termination of the handle. This may give some clue to its origin or history. The eye provides an easy means of hanging from a nail, and the head itself assists in giving a perfect grip.

If any of your readers can assist in solving the mystery of the origin of this curious axe and tell me the purpose of the notch in the blade I shall be grateful.—W. L. JULYAN (*Lt.-Col.*).



WHAT IS ITS ORIGIN?

of these possibly unique goslings and at the loss of material which might have thrown light on certain forms between the two parent species. The luckless goose and gander had nursed the little things devotedly. When the last breath had left the last one they turned from it and walked off to join the flock. An hour or two later I found in the farmyard two newly hatched Chinese goslings. I took them to the bereaved couple. The moment they heard the little things calling they opened their wings and rushed in great excitement to meet me. I put the goslings down upon the lawn. They looked at them, turned away and walked discon-

EMERGENCY STAIRCASE IN A CHURCH

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—The Sunday School children attending Lindfield Church sit in the chancel. This position—some distance from a door—was considered by the Parochial Church Council to be dangerous in the event of an air raid. The Council, therefore, removed one of the leaded windows and replaced it by a French window opening outwards on to the churchyard. A wooden stair has been built leading up from the chancel to the window, while a second stair—with two stout hand-rails—leads down into the churchyard. By this means the Council consider that the children can be evacuated from the church in a very few minutes should the need arise.—GWYNETH PENNETHORNE.



THE CHILDREN'S EXIT IN LINDFIELD CHURCH

solately back to the other geese. They were not to be fooled. I regret to add that these goslings likewise succumbed to the fatal "straddle," although the weather was now quite cool. Poultry keepers aver that it is a form of heat stroke. Certainly it is rarely, if ever, met with early in the season. Experts hint at rickets, food deficiencies, and so on, but confess to knowing very little about the cause. It is a significant fact that all wild geese in the northern hemisphere go as far north as they can for breeding purposes.—F. PITT.

NETTLES AND RHEUMATISM

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Having read your note on nettles in a recent copy of COUNTRY LIFE, I thought that the following experience of mine might interest your readers. Over forty years ago I suffered from rheumatism in my shoulder, and I used to go every year to Aix-les-Bains for treatment. While I was there I read in a newspaper that in some American hospitals they had been trying experiments with bee stings and nettles for rheumatism. When I returned home I beat my shoulder with nettles, letting them remain against the skin for a short time. When I removed them they were quite limp, without any sting left in them. As a result, a rash came out, irritating and itching, which lasted about a fortnight. But the rheumatism had gone. The following spring I repeated the experiment, but this time there was no rash. Off and on I have continued to use nettles in this way, and now occasionally beat my wrists with them. I do not think it matters on what part of the body you use them. So far I have had no return of the pain. Some years ago I persuaded a friend who was suffering great pain from a stiff neck to try this treatment. I think that she tried it twice, and within two or three days both pain and stiffness had gone. As children we were given "nettle tea" in stone bottles, instead of ginger beer; we also ate nettles like spinach, or cut up and fried—it was very good.—JOHN A. A. WILLIAMS.



THE BEAN GANDER ON GUARD BESIDE HIS PINK-FOOTED MATE



AFTER TWENTY-FIVE DAYS' INCUBATION: WITH ONE OF THE HYBRID GOSLINGS

GOLF BY BERNARD DARWIN

SHELTERING

I AM beginning this article after that con-founded siren has sounded, when nothing particular is going on for the moment (in a good hour be it spoken) but when—whatever I may say in brackets—something probably will soon. What is the subject that occurs to me as appropriate at such a time? Obviously that of sheltering, or, in more official language, discontinuing play. First I refreshed my memory as to Rule 2 for stroke play, which is: "Competitors shall start in the order and at the times arranged by the Committee. They shall not discontinue play nor delay to start on account of bad weather or for any reason whatever, except such as the Committee may consider satisfactory." Then I turned to my book of decisions, and here I was disappointed. Somewhere once upon a time I read a delightful question sent up on this point from a club abroad—I think in Switzerland. It concerned a player on a nine-hole course, who, having finished his first nine holes, stopped for a minute at the club and "called for a cup of wine." The answer I have forgotten, but the noble language I can never forget. It is worthy of Ivanhoe; nay, it almost is that of the immortal work; for, as I remember, the Disinherited Knight actually did call for a cup of wine, in between his rounds against the Knights Challengers, and quaffed it to the confusion of foreign tyrants, or words to that effect. Well, sad to say, the decision is not in the book, though I certainly did not dream it, and as far as Rule 2 for stroke play is concerned romance is dead.

Those that are there are not very exciting, being concerned for the most part with questions that need hardly have been asked. I

must say, however, that I have a good deal of sympathy with people who break this rule, whether because lightning is playing vividly round their heads or for whatever other cause. There was one poor man, for instance, who on reaching the first green found that he had not got his putter and was no doubt furious with his caddie for not having noticed it. How natural to send the erring caddie back to the club-house and wait for the putter, even though two couples passed him while he waited! Natural, but against the law; the Rules Committee were rightly inexorable. Then there is the case of heroic B and rather selfish A. Rain was pouring down, and A, whose card was presumably wrecked, took shelter for ten minutes while B went forward to the tee and drove off his ball. After that he waited, getting wet out in the open, because A would not emerge from his shelter. It was rightly held that he had done his full duty, and only A was disqualified. Lastly, there is the rather pleasant story of a rather muddle-headed, if I may unchivalrously say so, lady secretary. A and B were playing the first hole in an eclectic competition, and after B had duly played her second, they met, like Wordsworth, a little maid, who, holding out A's ball, remarked: "I've found a ball." They returned to ask the secretary what to do, and she said: "Tee another ball and start again." Later, after the second round, when B had won the competition, she was told by the secretary that she was disqualified "for coming back." B protested that, assuming A had to go back to the tee, she also must go back, as marker, to see the tee shot played. I am glad to say that there was a happy ending and nobody was dis-

qualified. A member of the Rules Committee once proposed, as the solution of a knotty problem in a professional tournament, "Disqualify the marker," and in this case it was clearly the secretary who should have suffered.

At this point I had to desist and beat a retreat, because, as I suspected it would, something did happen in my neighbourhood. As I sat in my shelter golf still ran in my head; indeed, I encouraged it to do so, and began to play a round in imagination. After some deliberation I chose St. Andrews, because it is there in September that I would be, perhaps, rather than at any other place in the world. It is easy to hit a good tee shot into that vast, unbunkered prairie, even if one be out of practice. At any rate, I allowed myself a respectable one, putting me in a spot whence I could carry the burn with some reasonably lofted club; and, having reached the green and not having left my putter behind, like the unfortunate gentleman before mentioned, I duly got my four. That is the difficulty of these imaginary rounds. One cannot bear to make a mistake. Each one of my shots is what, I believe, Ouida called "a stroke of which any sportsman might have been proud." That was when one of her Guardsmen was playing billiards and all three balls ran into different pockets. To combat this tendency I deliberately made myself take a five at the corner of the Dyke, and then at the Cartgate I played a lovely pitch, skirting the bunker and leaving the ball eight feet or so from the hole. I was just going to tackle the putt for a three when there came the cheerfully monotonous sound of "Raiders passed." I emerged from my shelter and gave myself that putt.

THE RETURN OF RACING

INTERESTING CONTESTS PREDICTED

THE return of racing, even in a very restricted form, is welcome not only because it will act as a very necessary stimulant to the bloodstock-breeding industry, which was showing many signs of distress, but because contests will be staged which will settle in the only satisfactory way several much discussed points. Take, for instance, the four year olds. With these it is a very open question whether Atout Maître, Quick Ray, Casanova, Hunter's Moon IV or Fairchance is the best. There is no Ascot Gold Cup to help towards a decision, but the Jockey Club Cup, which is due to take place at Newmarket on October 16th, may solve the problem.

All are first-class horses. Atout Maître, who was bred in France by M. Leon Volterra, the breeder also of the Derby winner, Bois Roussel, is a three-parts brother in blood to Mr. Arthur Sainsbury's sterling horse, William of Valence, by Bois Roussel's sire, Vatout, from a Teddy mare. Last season his owner-trainer, Mr. Herbert Blagrove, prepared him at Beckhampton to win three races, one of which was the Ascot Gold Vase, and strongly fancied him to lower the colours of Blue Peter in the St. Leger, which was abandoned; this year his main objective was to have been the Ascot Gold Cup, at the beginning of his preparation for which he ran in the Hampton Court Plate at Hurst Park in April, and, giving 2lb., ran Black Speck to a length and a half. Some were disappointed at this performance, knowing that the Ascot race was not due to come off until some six weeks later, but he probably did as well as could be expected. A horse full of quality, essentially sound and of proved stamina, he may find most danger coming from Quick Ray and Hunter's Moon IV, as Casanova (who is a half-brother, by Hyperion, to Precipitation) has gone to the stud in Ireland, and Fairchance, as a Bay horse, is unlikely to get the distance. He is reckoned at Manton to be one of the best. The late Lawson has trained since he took over the reins, Quick Ray, who was bred by and belongs to Lord Astor, is a classically moulded colt with a long, easy action, by the Derby St. Leger winner, Hyperion, from the

Hurry On mare, Pennycomequick, who won the Oaks and is also responsible for Golden Penny. Last season Quick Ray had very little running, but earned a bracket in the St. George Stakes at Liverpool, and ran third to Cimon and Inquisition, both of whom were in receipt of 15lb., in the Manton Plate, at Salisbury. There was little to suggest exceptional brilliance in this, but the colt was slow to hand, and it was not until May of this year that Lawson had him to his liking. Then he made his debut at Newmarket on Two Thousand Guineas Day in the Chippenham Stakes, and after being universally admired in the paddock gave one of the most polished displays that have been seen on a racecourse for many a day, winning officially by a length and a half from Bellman, with Fox Cub two lengths farther away and Hunter's Moon IV fourth. The last-named, who scored in the White Rose Stakes at Hurst Park in 1939 and also earned two brackets in France, left the impression that he was not quite wound up. A dark sherry bay colt, powerfully proportioned, he was bred in France by his owner, Mr. E. Esmond, and is by the Ascot Gold Cup winner, Foxhunter, who, in turn, was by the Ascot Gold Cup winner, Foxlaw, and comes from Pearl Opal, a Bruleur mare who, like the French One Thousand Guineas and Oaks victress Pearl Cap, the French One Thousand Guineas heroine Bipearl, and the French Derby winner Pearlweed, was out of Pearl Maiden, a Phaleron mare, who cost Mr. Esmond 1,000ggs. at the December Sales of 1925. Actually more of a Cup as distinct from a classic horse, both on looks and pedigree, than either Atout Maître or Quick Ray, it will indeed be interesting to see if his very dourness will prevail or Quick Ray will add to his already high reputation.

Passing on to the best of those a year younger, now that the One Thousand Guineas and Oaks winner Godiva is dead, there seems nothing the least likely to lower the colours of the Beckhampton owned and trained Pont l'Évêque, who is due to run at Hurst Park this afternoon as part of his preparation for the substitute St. Leger. Another that has to be officially described as "bred in France"—

though, except for his place of birth, there is little foreign about him—he is a very good horse who, when his racing days are over, will be a great acquisition to the list of stallions. The Aga Khan's Turkhan, who won the Irish Derby, can be justifiably ranked as the second best of his age, but it is a poor second, and any danger that threatens Pont l'Évêque may emanate from one of the fillies, the best of whom seem to be the Irish Oaks winner Queen of Shiraz, who, like Turkhan, is by Bahram, and Valeraïne, a daughter of the Ascot Gold Cup winner Tiberius from the Irish Oaks victress Haintonette, who is only now just reaching her best. In company with her owner, Mr. J. A. Hirst and Mr. Weir-Johnston, it was my privilege to see Valeraïne do a gallop on the Limekilns at Newmarket recently, and it was impossible to refrain from admiring her. An easy-going, placid sort of filly, with a well placed shoulder and plenty of heart room, she gets right down to her work, and the farther she goes the better she likes it. In many ways she is reminiscent of Bracket, and is distinctly one to note when the entry for the Cesarewitch appears.

Last to deal with are the youngsters, though anything that can be said now can only be tentative as the season, or the part of it that has gone, was all too short to form a sound opinion. Captain Long in his unofficial handicap makes the best to be Owen Tudor, whom he estimates as five pounds superior to Morogoro and the Rosetta filly. All three are trained at Beckhampton by Fred Darling. There is no getting away from the brilliant manner in which Owen Tudor (who is, incidentally, by Hyperion) won the Salisbury Stakes on his only appearance. On the other hand, Morogoro, who claims the Ascot Gold Cup winner Felicitation as his sire, has been out four times, and has won on each occasion, and the Rosetta filly, who is by Umidwar, was successful in her only race. Owen Tudor may retain his position at the head of the handicap at the end of the season, but there are whispers that the Manton stable shelters something well out of the ordinary in Hyperion's son, Sun Lore, and it is quite likely that there will be further surprises to come from Beckhampton. ROYSTON.

THE ESTATE MARKET

IMPORTANT COUNTRY HOUSES SOLD

THE late Mr. Walter Parrott, a well known member of the Stock Exchange, bought Wood Eaton Manor, Oxford, in 1911, from the Weyland family, who had owned it nearly 150 years. They re-built the house soon after 1775. The house, which is of Adam architectural character, is very spacious, and there is a walled garden. Until the time of Henry VIII the manor was held by Eynsham Abbey. Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley and Messrs. Nicholas have effected the sale. The land is let to the Potato Marketing Board.

Sir Edward Freeling, Bt., has requested Messrs. Hampton and Sons to sell Beenham Lodge, 143 acres, near Reading.

Willett House and 1,200 acres, at Bicknoller, in North Somerset, a couple of miles from Stogumber, have been sold by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. and Messrs. Wm. Cowlin and Son, Limited, to a leading man in Bristol. There are, beside the Late Georgian house and beautiful grounds, four farms which produce a substantial rent. The farms are well equipped with houses, cottages and buildings. Mr. Henry C. Venning, the vendor, has resided at Willett House for a long period.

SALES IN THE HOME COUNTIES

A NEW list of transactions by Messrs. Harrods Estate Offices shows the activity of the market in Surrey, Sussex and Berkshire, as well

added their apparent unfitness for the type of house which some of them aspire to, the refusal of agents to come to terms is easily understandable. Another argument against accepting the rents offered by some house-seekers is that, as the law stands to-day, it may be difficult to restore the rents to a fair level at a later date, and all the time the virtual impossibility of getting rid of a tenant once he is in possession, no matter how thoroughly undesirable he may prove to be, is a thing of which many owners and all agents are aware.

It will be good news for local authorities, and for shopkeepers and other traders, that a turn of the tide has set in. But the indications of it are not yet very encouraging. Certain towns within thirty or forty miles of London are in a most congested state, and any kind of accommodation in them is eagerly snapped up by those who have had to leave coastal districts. Though this type of competition for house room helps householders by yielding them rents that are often exorbitant, it is of no benefit to the owners of the houses—in fact, often the reverse, because of the abnormal wear and tear to which the properties are subjected.

Valuations of furniture and contents of residences have been well maintained; in these uncertain times it is unquestionably more desirable than ever that householders should possess a priced inventory of their furniture and works of art. With this any claim that may arise in the event of

Lee Barton Farm, 32 acres, for £2,290, and White House Farm, 62 acres, let at £180, for £4,000.

A GREAT "BREAK-UP" RECALLED

HAWKSTONE PARK HOTEL, near Shrewsbury, has been sold as a going concern, by Messrs. George Trollope and Sons, and Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley. The hotel is the mansion on the fringe of Hawkstone Park. The estate was offered by auction in 1915 by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley. Hawkstone, then belonging to the Hon. W. T. Whiteley and the Hon. R. G. Whiteley, was of 5,480 acres, with a rent roll exceeding £8,300 a year. Former owners included Sir Rowland Hill, Lord Mayor of London in 1549, and Lord Hill, who in Victorian days kept Australian and South African animals and birds in Hawkstone Park.

Lincolnshire land at Ashton-cum-Fenby has realised £6,680, under the hammer of Messrs. Dickinson, Davy and Markham at Grimsby. Hall Farm, 418 acres, fetched £5,750, the rent being £376 a year; 20 acres of freehold, known as The Orchards, £550; and various small lots of arable, in all 15 acres, £380. At an auction in Cheltenham Messrs. Cornelius and Boulter obtained a total of £2,950 for Holmedale Lawn, Lansdown Road, and 7 acres and a small house at Alstone Road.

Essex land, despite the exceptional difficulties prevailing over so much of that county to-day, is finding buyers through Messrs. Duncan B. Gray and Partners, whose latest sale is that of Great Brookholds Farm, 80 acres, near Saffron Walden. By auction at Chelmsford, Messrs. Alfred Darby and Co. disposed of 34 acres of dairy farming land in Latchingdon for £1,050.

BRISK BUSINESS IN SHROPSHIRE

VISCOUNT HILL has let Coton Hall, Whitchurch, through Messrs. Chamberlaine Brothers and Harrison's Shrewsbury office. Another notable letting is that of Loton Park, near Shrewsbury, for Sir Richard Leighton, Bt., in regard to which the joint agents were Messrs. Constable and Maude. Loton Park, a noble old house, mainly of William and Mary architecture, has been the home of the Leighton family for about three hundred years. It is close to the ruins of Alberbury Castle. Major A. E. Lees has let Rowton Castle, near Shrewsbury, and Sir Charles Yate's executors have similarly dealt with Madeley Hall. Other lettings include Pontesford House and Pimley Manor, both in the neighbourhood of Shrewsbury.

Farms amounting in the aggregate to considerably more than 1,000 acres, have just been sold by Messrs. Chamberlaine Brothers and Harrison, among them being Polesgate Farm, Pontesford, 98 acres, and Haughton Farm, Roddington, 150 acres; in the case of Plaish Farm, 330 acres, at Cardington, and another of 330 acres at Pipe Aston, near Ludlow, the vendors are remaining as tenants of the investors who have bought the farms. The last-named was dealt with by Messrs. Constable and Maude as joint agents. Poynton Grange, with 50 acres, at Shawbury, was sold on the eve of the auction.

Owing to the absence of the owner on active service, Ashcombe Tower, a luxuriously fitted house, nine miles from Exeter and fifteen from Torquay, can be had on a tenancy, furnished. The agents are Messrs. Rippon, Boswell and Co.'s Exeter office. Ashcombe Tower was the subject of a special article in COUNTRY LIFE of February 13th, 1937.

COTSWOLD HISTORY

BEVERSTOKE, near Tetbury, was scheduled in Domesday as a Crown property. It is to be sold by Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff. Beverstone Castle was allotted to Roger of Berkeley, whose descendants had to quit in the reign of Stephen. In the time of Henry II Beverstone Castle was held by Robert Fitz-Harding, and, having paid a substantial sum for their rights to be continued in the fourteenth century, the family maintained their tenure until about the year 1600. Then Beverstone was acquired by Sir Michael Hicks, whose descendants remained in possession of the property until about 100 years ago. The Holland tenure then followed. Beverstone was severely damaged by the Cromwellians, but the square tower and other parts of the Castle still form a bold and impressive front, and the main gateway and rooms above it are fortunate survivals. Norman work, much covered by ivy, adds to the beauty of the Castle. On a hill fully 500ft. above sea level, it commands a grand and extensive view over the Cotswolds. With the Castle can be had about 600 acres of woodland, pasture and arable. The present owner has spent a large sum in improving and repairing the structure, and in remodelling the residential quarters four years ago. Even at this long distance of time one may regret that the banqueting hall of Beverstone was burned down in 1691.

ARBITER.



ASHCOMBE TOWER, SOUTH DEVON

as along the Chilterns. Sales of West Country freeholds are being arranged. Among the properties sold are White Mill End, Sevenoaks, with Messrs. Parsons, Welch and Cowell; houses at Brockham Green, Surrey, with Messrs. Mason, Herring and Grant; and Reigate freeholds, with Messrs. Watkin and Watkin.

Mr. S. R. J. Gorringe acted for the buyer of The Haye, Sherborne St. John, near Basingstoke, from Messrs. Tresidder and Co. and Messrs. Rogers, Chapman and Thomas. Valley Farm, Edgeworth, and Frith Farm, 45 acres, at Bisley, both in Gloucestershire, have also been sold by Messrs. Tresidder and Co.

Tenants bought many of the lots at an auction at Willersey, near Broadway, and the sales included nine market gardens, in all 65 acres, for £3,165. Messrs. John A. Bloss and Co.'s Bourton-on-the-Water office conducted the auction.

Holmpton, 700 acres, close to Spurn Head, has been sold to Colonel Edward Beddington, through Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff, who have disposed of residential freeholds at from £4,000 upwards.

WAR-TIME TENANCIES

THERE are still great numbers of sale or letting boards displayed in every part of London and the suburbs, and this is not altogether because of an absence of offers for property, but it arises in large part from the unwillingness or inability of would-be tenants to pay anything approaching a reasonable rent. If to the evident financial instability of many of these would-be tenants be

fire or other happening can be immediately prepared. Two or three recent fires in mansions emphasise the need of being prepared with inventories.

Within the last few days important premises in Piccadilly and Regent Street have been disposed of, and in Westminster Messrs. George Trollope and Sons have let offices at a total rental of roundly £20,000 a year.

A SOMERSET MANOR

WHITESTAUNTON MANOR, near Chard, a fifteenth-century house enlarged during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, is for sale with 120 acres, and two miles of fishing in the Yarty, by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. The grounds contain the remains of a Roman villa, a holy well which Queen Henrietta visited in the time of Henry VII, and the stables where cavalry of Charles II were quartered. Whitestaunton Manor, for many decades the home of the Elton family, was sold by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. in 1923, and since then the owner has expended fully £15,000 in improvements, including the stripping of a mass of creeper which had obscured the structural beauty of the fine old house.

Avishays, a house mainly of the Queen Anne period, at Chard, and 103 acres have been sold by Messrs. T. R. G. Lawrence and Son. They have also sold a number of large farms and, with Messrs. W. R. J. Greenslade and Co., Bullen Court, near Ilminster.

The demand for Dorset farms is well maintained, and at an auction at Bridport Messrs. William Morey and Sons sold two at Bradpole—

THE SILAGE CAMPAIGN

THE IMPORTANCE, AND SOME METHODS, OF CONSERVING AUTUMN FODDER

By W. R. PEEL, D.S.O.

The drought has made grass very short, but after a dry summer there is nearly always abundance of grass in the autumn, which is usually wasted. This can be made into silage until the November frosts, and must be if the milk supply is to be maintained.

THESE can be no farmer in Britain who does not now realise that feeding-stuffs will remain in short supply so long as the war lasts, but all do not appreciate how their own particular business will be affected. Pig and poultry farmers know only too well what it means to them: the feeder is seriously concerned about supplies for his cattle this winter, but some dairy farmers are still living in a fool's paradise, believing that because dairy cows are to receive preference over other classes of stock in supplies of available feeding-stuffs, they will be able to obtain what they want. They have been told in no uncertain terms that in spite of the preference they will be unable to obtain the quantity which they have been accustomed to use, and they are urged to spare no effort in producing home-grown feeding-stuffs. Indeed, unless a real effort is made it is unlikely that the milk supply can be maintained at pre-war levels.

Cattle and sheep obtain the greater part of their food from bulky crops like grass, hay, roots and fodder crops. In fact, 75 per cent. of the ration of a dairy cow is composed of bulky foods and only 25 per cent. of concentrated feeding-stuffs. Practical experience has shown that a milking cow can be maintained in full production and in good condition on grass and grass products alone. In summer she grazes, in winter she is fed on hay for maintenance and on dried young grass or high-quality silage for production. To do this the grass must be good, the grazing well managed, and that cut for drying or silage of high quality.

On many farms crops for making into silage are grown on the arable land. Oats and vetches, or outside peas, are often used for this purpose. If allowed to approach a fairly advanced stage of maturity—that is, when the oats are in ear and the lower parts of the vetches or peas are beginning to form—they give heavy yields and make a silage which is palatable, but it is a silage which cannot rank as cake substitute, and all it can do is to replace hay. At the stage when it is cut the crop is low in protein and the fibre has become indigestible. If cut young, when the protein content is still high, the yield is low. In fine weather the better policy is to make these mixtures into hay and not silage which will only replace hay.

FITTING IN SILAGE CROPS

There is no crop so easily grown and made into high-quality silage as grass, but it must



SILAGE IS USEFUL DURING A DROUGHT IN SUMMER—

be grown in the right way and cut at the right time. The simple facts that the leaves of grasses and clovers have a higher feeding value and are more palatable than the stems, that young leaves are richer than old leaves, and that proper manuring, especially with nitrogen, increases the feeding value and palatability, are often forgotten. In spring, when grasses and clovers start growth, the parts appearing above ground are composed of leaf. In May or June growth is at its maximum, and at the end of this phase the plant flowers. At this time the proportion of leaf to stem, and, therefore, the feeding value, is at its lowest. From the end of June or July until October or even November considerable growth, mainly leaf, may be expected. Thus the times when grass is at the best stage for making into high-quality silage are early summer and autumn. These times work in well with the other operations on the farm, whether it be arable or grass. In

early summer there is usually more grass on the farm than can be consumed by stock, and even if the farm is heavily stocked an extra supply of young grass for silage can be obtained if a top dressing of nitrogenous fertiliser is given in early spring. In late summer or autumn there is again a surplus of grass, for at this time in addition to the fields used for grazing, there are those which have been cut for hay. Here, too, a top dressing of nitrogen after the hay has been removed will ensure when rain comes an abundant aftermath. Where a pasture is shut up for the production of a late crop of grass for silage, any dead or stemmy material should first be mown off, so that the subsequent growth may be clean and composed only of nutritious leaf. This is well worth while, for every acre of good grass replaces 10cwt. of a balanced concentrated food. The relatively small acreage of permanent grass in the arable districts does not preclude the making of the required amount of high quality silage. First, second and third year seeds, lucerne and sainfoin are excellent for this purpose. Unlike old permanent swards they have not lost the vigour of youth. They start growth earlier, they produce more bulk, they recover more quickly after a drought, and they have cleaner swards and fewer useless grasses and weeds than old grasslands. On arable farms there are opportunities for growing silage catch crops. Italian rye grass sown in spring corn, grazed after the corn is harvested, rested in winter and top-dressed in early spring, will produce a good cut of high-quality grass in April or the beginning of May. Or trefolium and Italian rye grass sown on a corn stubble will be ready for cutting in the following spring. These are ways, and there are others, by which an additional quantity of silage can be made without upsetting the usual cropping of the arable land.

On those farms which are making sufficient high-quality silage to meet the requirements of their cattle during the winter, it is usual to find that one-third of the silage is made in early summer and two-thirds from aftermath grass in autumn. On these farms the practice is to top-dress and shut up some of the usual grazing land for an early cut for silage, and to graze this land during the rest of the summer. The usual acreage is mown for hay, but some of the aftermath is cut for silage. Thus on a farm where twenty dairy cows are kept, 70-80 tons of high-quality silage will be required for milk production and 30-35 tons of hay for maintenance. To provide these amounts,



—AND FOR SHEEP IN WINTER

8 acres will be cut for silage in May, 24 acres will be mown for hay at the usual time—June or July—and 16 acres of aftermath cut for silage in the autumn.

SILAGE FOR CATTLE AND SHEEP

Thirty-five hundredweight of hay and $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons of high-quality silage are required by a cow giving 2 gallons of milk per day during the winter. The ration of such a cow would be 20lb. of hay for maintenance and 40lb. of silage for the production of 2 gallons of milk. Twenty pounds of high-quality silage will replace 3½lb. of balanced dairy cake. In this case all the concentrated food the farmer might have to buy is high protein food for cows giving over 3 gallons of milk. This does not mean that high-quality silage will not maintain a daily milk yield higher than 3 gallons. It will. An experiment carried out last winter at the Rowett Institute showed that cows yielding 5 gallons of milk per day could be maintained in good condition on silage alone, but the amount fed, 150lb. per head per day, was higher than most farmers would find it practicable to feed.

Stress has been laid purposely on high-quality silage as a feed for dairy cows because of the large amounts of concentrated food the dairy farmer has become accustomed to use, not only in winter but in summer as well, amounts which can and must be replaced by

mortality of lambs be reduced if silage were made and fed to the ewes before, at, and after lambing. There is always a surplus of grass at some time or another on the lower levels of these farms, and even if the surplus only consists of bent, nardus (moor mat grass) or *Molinia* (flying bent), good silage can be made if these inferior grasses are cut young. Recent experiments have shown that the deficiency in the so-called minor element from which many sheep walks suffer can be made good through the silo. As the grass is ensiled the necessary minerals are added.

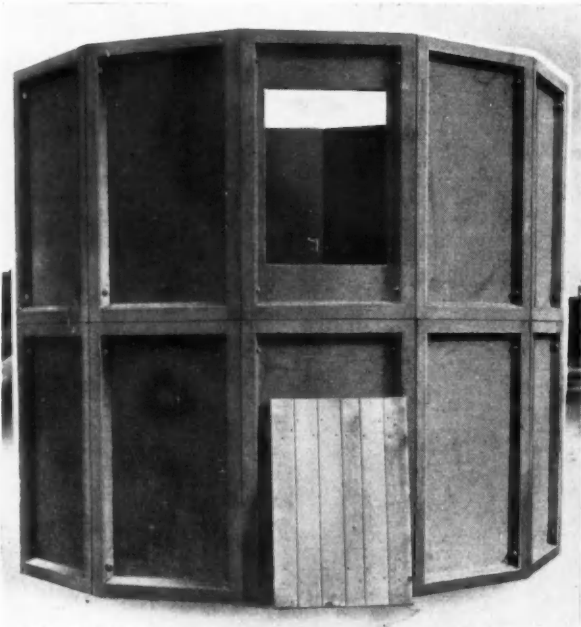
MOLASSES' PART IN SILAGE

The production of high-quality silage is no longer a matter of chance but of certainty. In making young grass with a high protein content into silage it is necessary to add molasses, because molasses provides food for the bacteria which are to bring about the right type of fermentation. These bacteria, the lactic-acid-forming bacteria, are already in sufficient force in the grass, but young grass does not contain sufficient sugar for them to live. Salt is sometimes used, but salt supplies no food for the bacteria, therefore its application is only a laborious and expensive way of giving to the animal the salt it requires in the place of rock salt which is usually provided for the animal to lick at will.

The quantity of molasses to apply depends on the crop. Young grass requires 20lb.,

HOME-MADE SILOS

A silo or container is necessary if high-quality silage with little waste is to be produced. Shortage of timber, steel and cement has made it necessary for many farmers to make their own silos. A farmer is a "Jack of all trades," and it is not beyond his ingenuity to construct a silo from material he has already on his farm. Outbuildings can be converted, and corrugated iron supported by a few poles and fencing wire makes good silos. Sheep netting, chain link fencing or hen pen netting held in position by posts and wire, sheep or pig hurdles prevented from splaying outwards by wire, lined with treated sisal paper, bitumenised hessian and such materials, have been used with success. Some farmers may still be able to buy low-built wooden silos, wire and sisal paper silos, chestnut pale silos with bitumenised hessian, and steel silos. In addition there are a number of different types of concrete panel or slab silos on the market, and no doubt some farmers will have silos erected of brick. In making a silo the main point to remember is that there is great lateral pressure, which is at its maximum about half way up the silo. A strand of wire placed round the top of the undersilo when the oversilo is one-third full has often saved a silo from bursting. Where the undersilo is no more than 6ft. high an oversilo must be provided; this can be home-made as described above.



(Left) THE BATLEY SECTIONAL REINFORCED CONCRETE SILO. One of the easily erected portable types. (Right) AN IMPROVISED SILO

silage with a high feeding value if those animals, pigs and poultry, which cannot produce meat or eggs without concentrated foods are to have a fair share. High-quality silage has the same place in the ration of a young growing animal as in that of the milking cow. Both require the same balance between proteins and carbohydrates; both require an adequate supply of minerals and the necessary vitamins for growth or milk production. For feeding cattle high-quality silage will provide all the protein the animal requires, but, as the fattening beast needs a higher proportion of carbohydrates to proteins than a milking cow, home-produced carbohydrate foods such as barley, oats, oat straw, roots, etc., are fed in addition. Thus a suitable ration for a bullock weighing 8cwt. live weight which is to put on 2lb. live weight increase per day is 40lb. silage, 40lb. swedes, 7lb. hay, and about 7lb. oat straw to rack up.

It is sometimes thought that sheep will not eat silage. Perhaps it may be difficult to get sheep, especially hill sheep, to eat hay, but provided silage is properly made there is no difficulty in inducing the most fastidious animal to take to it. Farmers have been urged to keep more sheep. On many farms, especially hill farms, the number of sheep which can be kept is governed by the amount of feed the farm can provide in early spring. Many of these farms could carry more stock and the

clover, lucerne and sainfoin 30lb. per ton of crop ensiled. The molasses must be evenly distributed throughout the mass to be effective, and to ensure this the molasses must be diluted. The rate of dilution depends on the state of the crop. If the crop is dry the molasses may have to be diluted with twice or more times its volume of water. Where the crop is very wet, equal volumes of molasses and water may be used, but the important point to remember is that an adequate quantity of molasses is used and that it is evenly distributed. Other points to bear in mind are: cart as soon after cutting as possible, thoroughly ted out the crop as it is forked into the silo, tread the whole surface thoroughly and evenly, paying especial attention to the walls, keep the centre higher than the sides so that the surface always appears dome-shaped, seal off the top with at least four inches of soil when filling is completed. The temperature of the mass must be watched. It should be from 80° to 100° Fahr., but with a very wet crop, such as late aftermath grass which packs tightly, the temperature may be allowed to exceed 100° Fahr. but never 120° Fahr. The temperature can be made to rise or fall by filling rapidly or slowly and by treading lightly or heavily. After the silo has been sealed it should be weighted with more soil, or wood, stones, etc. Within ten days it will have settled to about half its original height.

It is only two months since the Government embarked on the national campaign for the making of cake substitute silage. During these two months a force of instructors in the modern methods of silage making has been mobilised and every district is having silage demonstrations at which farmers are shown the technique of the process. In many parts of the country there is little or no grass because of the drought, but experience of the past shows that after a very dry summer there is nearly always an abundance of grass in the autumn—grass which was usually wasted, but which this year must be made into silage. Provided no severe frost intervenes, silage can be made in November, but when once grass is frosted the protein content rapidly diminishes. Thus in November on a farm with which the writer is connected the protein content of grass on the 9th was 17.31. Then came a frost and it fell to 13.63 within the week. The goal this autumn is one million tons of high-quality silage. The goal for 1941 should be assuredly six million tons, which would make a real contribution, for the silage would replace the million tons of balanced concentrated food which may not be there. It is a task within the capacity of British Agriculture, for it means cutting for high-quality silage no more than two million out of the eighteen million acres of grassland.



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BARN MACHINERY FOR GRAIN

FARM-OWNED THRESHING MACHINES AND HOME MILLING PLANT, BY W. H. CASHMORE

THE general standard of arable land equipment in this country is on a higher level than on the Continent, and yet when we examine farmyard and barn equipment we find that even the small Continental farms have many simple and cheap labour-saving devices, such as hoists, elevators, conveyors, which we should do well to consider if we wish to make our mechanisation more complete and to reduce our costs. This contrast is particularly marked in the case of threshers and grinding mills.

After the corn harvest has been safely stacked there is still much to be done before the grain is sold to the miller or fed to stock on the farm.

Threshing from the stack is a real problem which is not helped by the increased acreage of corn and the present shortage of labour. The normal procedure in the Midlands and the southern part of England is to arrange for a contractor's threshing set to call when convenient and thresh several stacks. If there has been wet weather, the heavy thresher and

equipment to avoid delay. When the thresher does arrive the labour demands will hold up all the other necessary operations on the arable land, because few threshing sets have any modern labour-saving devices.

STATIONARY COMBINES

Combine harvester users know none of these worries, although they have their problems of grain-drying and storage.

Combine harvesters are very satisfactory as stationary threshers. For this purpose the 5ft. cut machines with the 5ft. beater-bar drums are preferable to the narrower peg drums found on the larger combines. The 5ft. combine will thresh about 50 bushels an hour and requires less labour than a standard 4ft. 6in. drum. The pre-war price of such a combine was £250, and yet the cheapest 4ft. 6in. finishing drum was £300 to £400.

Most farmers would welcome the introduction of a cheap threshing drum on the lines of the combine harvester which could be operated with three or four men, and they

feeding a fair proportion of home-grown cereals, especially oats, were not generally appreciated. At the present time it is imperative that the best use be made on the farm of all grain not required for human consumption, and reorganisation of the barn machinery will go some way towards reducing the cost of preparing feeding-stuffs.

Hitherto there has been a tendency to restrict farm grinding to large-capacity mills installed on the larger stock farms, with the power for the mill supplied by tractor, diesel engine or electric motor of at least 8 h.p. On many of the medium or small-sized farms the grain is carted either to a neighbour's mill, a commercial establishment for grinding or, alternatively, sold and mixed meal purchased.

The advantages of grinding on the farm are many. There is a saving in the cost of hauling the grain to and from a distant mill, and the inconvenience of this procedure is avoided; the farm can make a spare-time job of grinding, the necessity of large storage space for the meal is eliminated and spoiling through storing for long periods prevented; and the degree of fineness can be regulated to suit the various classes of stock. Where electricity is available the operation can be made automatic, requiring little or no attention.

The possibilities of using small-capacity mills are not generally appreciated. Their use eliminates most of the objections to installing a mill, and their usefulness covers both small and medium-sized farms. It is essential that the small mill should feed automatically and require little or no attention. To ensure this the grain must not contain trash or any material liable to choke the feed. Briefly, the advantages of a small automatic mill are low initial outlay, reduced labour costs, and the utilisation of a small power unit. Electricity is particularly advantageous because, apart from being more satisfactory for low power drive, it makes it possible to incorporate a thermal switch which prevents overloading the mill.

Mills may be divided into two main types, the burr mill and the hammer mill. The former is considered more satisfactory for medium to coarse grinding and the latter more efficient for fine meal; but because the hammer mill lends itself more easily to automatic control and requires less replacements, it is usually preferred for the small-scale installation.

In America small burr mills driven by motors as small as $\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. have proved satisfactory and been used to crack maize or wheat at the rate of 200lb. per hour and to grind oats, wheat or barley reasonably fine at 25lb. to 90lb. per hour.

There is still some doubt as to the most economical degree of fineness for the various classes of stock, and time and money are often wasted in grinding to a fineness which is unpalatable, wasteful, and sometimes an irritant to the animal's nasal passages.

The equipment mentioned in this article is available to the British farmer, but its effectiveness will depend a great deal on his ingenuity in choosing the correct units and erecting them to make full use of the available space and lay-out of the buildings.

Grinding mills are often fed by gravity and operated on the ground level, while it may be advantageous to store the meal on the first floor. In this case labour can be saved by the use of power-driven elevators. Where hammer mills are used, the high speed of working makes it possible to combine the mill with a pneumatic conveyor which is usually a part of the mill.

A useful home-made elevator can be constructed by bolting elevator buckets to a late belting passing round suitable pulley wheels and enclosing in a wooden chute fitted with the necessary hopper and delivery spouts.



A TRACTOR AS MOTIVE POWER FOR A THRESHER

straw baler, drawn by a steam engine or tractor, may cut up the farm roads and yards and will certainly disorganise the normal work on the farm for the several days' threshing, and a few days will be required afterwards for clearing up.

This season it will be more difficult than usual to obtain the contractor's set at the desired time, because it is to the farmer's advantage to thresh as much as possible immediately. The price of corn is fixed throughout the season, and holding in the stack means possible losses through damage by vermin and enemy action, and loss of interest on capital. It is in the country's interest that there should be considerable storage on the farms, and possibly a sliding scale in grain prices can be arranged to encourage this. But even if this were the case, there would still be a rush to thresh, because some stacks have been built on sites which will be inaccessible in the winter, grain is needed for immediate feeding, oat straw is necessary to supplement the depleted hay crop following a reduction in the amount of grassland, and seed corn is required for autumn sowing. Perhaps the most important factor is the need for ready money to meet the increased cost of the change-over to arable farming.

Many farmers are anxious about getting the threshing done at the required time, and they may be forced to hire much less efficient

would not mind if the grain had to be dressed after threshing.

At present, on small and medium-sized farms the alternative to the hired equipment is the small 2ft. 6in. or 3ft. drum which is popular in the north of England and Scotland.

A 2ft. 6in. drum requires about 9 h.p. and a 3ft. drum 10 to 12 h.p. A low-speed drum is sufficient for oats, but if other grain is to be threshed a high-speed beater-bar is necessary.

A 2ft. 6in. drum will thresh about 50 bushels an hour, and a 3ft. drum about 65 bushels an hour.

A peg drum gives a higher output for a given horse-power, but it breaks up the straw, is not so effective for damp grain, and is likely to damage beans. For these reasons it is not so popular in this country as the beater-bar.

Single-dresser 2ft. 6in. threshers can be purchased for a little over £100, and a full finisher drum for about £200. The labour required does not exceed three or four men, and the labour demands can be further reduced by fitting light conveyors to feed the drum from the stack and to carry off the straw from the straw walkers. These conveyors are very popular on the Continent, and consist of endless horizontal belts with tines attached.

Before the present shortage of imported feeding-stuffs the advantages obtained from

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FARMING NOTES

CLEANING THE STUBBLES—DISAPPOINTING NEW PRICES—IS EGG CONTROL NECESSARY?—CUMBERLAND SHORTHORNS—PATHS OVER PLOUGHS—ALL-BRITISH PICKLES

THE ground has been so hard that it has been difficult to make much progress with breaking the further grass fields which are now due to come under the plough. We have, however, been able to get the cultivator into the stubbles and work about the surface. September can be a very valuable cleaning month if the weather is right. There is rubbish to be dealt with in a good many of the fields which were broken from grass this spring. The turf was not killed altogether, and grass kept growing through the corn. Now we have had the opportunity to deal effectively with this and the wheat should go into a clean seed-bed. There should be a big increase in the acreage of wheat sown this autumn. Much of the land planted to spring corn will go into wheat. The second straw crop will need some help in the way of fertilisers, and it is worth while having a lime test made. Old turf is liable to become acid, and wheat does not tolerate soil acidity. If we have to go carefully with potash and other fertilisers, there is no need to spare the lime, and while the Government pay half the cost of liming a generous dressing is a good investment.

Wheat will probably be the favourite cereal for the 1941 harvest wherever the land is suitable for wheat. The standard price of 14s. 6d. per hundredweight holds good for next year, but the maximum price for 1941 oats and barley used for feeding purposes has been cut down from 14s. 6d. to 13s. 6d. per hundredweight. Oats give a heavier yield of grain per acre than wheat and actually may pay better, but many farmers will prefer to grow a cereal which is covered by a definite price guarantee. The guarantee which covers the 1941 oat crop is a standard price of 12s. 6d. per hundredweight. The standard price arrangement is rather complicated, but apparently it works like this. If the market price for oats between September and March averages at least 3d. per hundredweight below the standard price, the grower qualifies for a subsidy and the sum payable is fourteen times the difference between the average market price and standard price for every acre grown.

Barley sold for malting purposes is to have a free market in the 1941 season, as it does now. It is only feeding barley which is controlled by a maximum price. So far as the 1940 barley crop is concerned, there should be a good price for the best malting samples. Little or no malting barley will be coming in from abroad, and the brewers should be able and willing to pay 90s. a quarter for the best. They will be limited in the quantity of beer

they are allowed to brew this year, and their purchases of barley will presumably be less than in recent years. There is plenty of home-grown barley up to malting standard, and if a price of 80s. a quarter rules for the medium qualities I for one shall be satisfied.

The National Farmers' Union have voiced the disappointment of farmers over cereal prices for the 1941 crops. They are disappointing in comparison with those now ruling when higher wages, more expensive fertilisers and other increased costs have to be taken into account for a full year. Little of these extra charges fell on the 1940 crops, and those who succeeded in growing full crops will be well repaid this year. The Minister of Agriculture has said that if costs should rise further the 1941 prices will be revised, and that he hopes to be able to peg fertiliser and feeding-stuff costs at their present level; but on the present basis of costs farmers consider that the 1941 crops should be priced at more money.

A 30 per cent. rise over 1939 prices is held out to potato growers as an inducement to increase the acreage for 1941 and the dairy farmer is to get more for his milk this winter. The grazier suffers an immediate reduction in the price of fat cattle marketed this autumn, and the winter feeder is to gain by an extra price for cattle he can keep through until May and June. The pig-feeder also has to suffer a price reduction. Taken altogether, the new prices may leave farmers generally no worse off, but they certainly do not offer the expected inducement to increased production all round.

A higher maximum price is now allowed for home-produced eggs, and those who supply the packing stations are to be rewarded with a special premium. Out of the confusion which has reigned the Ministry of Food has evolved a scheme for using the packing stations again as channels for the distribution of eggs to the towns. The eggs they grade and test will be officially marked and will carry a higher maximum retail price to cover the cost involved and the extra price payable to producers who send eggs to the packing stations rather than sell them locally at the ordinary retail price. If control must remain, it is only by some such means that a fair proportion of the limited supply can be directed to the towns which have gone short of eggs since Denmark and Holland were engulfed.

The chief sufferer under the new scheme is the producer who has built up for himself a retail trade in a town. He is not in a big enough

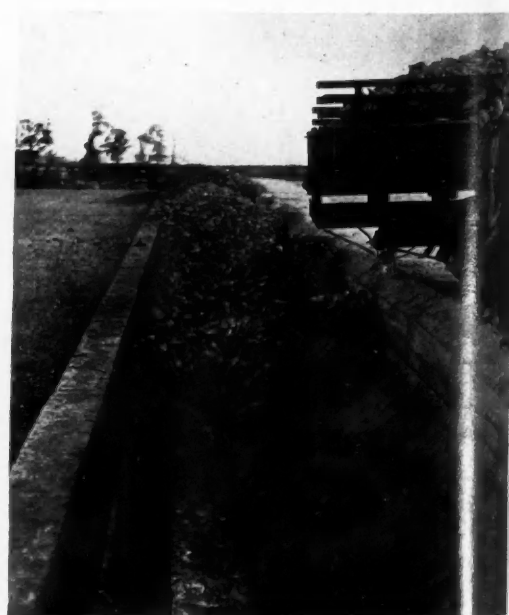
way of business to qualify as a packing station and have his eggs marked officially, so they must be sold at a lower retail price than the packing station eggs, which, incidentally, cannot be so fresh as eggs retailed direct from the producer's farm. These devices are well meant, but is it really necessary to retain price control at all? The Minister of Food himself has said that eggs are not an essential food.

Cumberland Shorthorns are some of the soundest cattle bred in this country, which is saying a good deal. I was interested to read Mr. John Thornborrow's reminiscences of some of the old breeders and their herds in the current issue of the *Shorthorn Journal*. There are, he says, quite a number of herds still flourishing in the hands of the second and third generations of the original founders, which maintain the reputation of the Cumberland and Westmorland Shorthorns as real dual-purpose animals, good for beef as well as milk. In the early days, as now, the chief consideration was the animal first and the milk second, the argument used being that more satisfaction and profit were likely to accrue by attempting to improve the milking propensities of a good Shorthorn than by reducing the general standing of the herd with a view to obtaining extra milk. How wise these northern stockherders have been is clear enough from the show-ring, where in recent years there have been too many Shorthorns of extreme dairy type, shelly creatures with no appearance of constitution, which have given heavy milk yields for a time.

Ploughing up footpaths across grassfields now being broken was mentioned in these Notes on August 17th. A Sussex reader tells me that when he was young—forty to fifty years ago—it was a common sight to see a footpath going across a ploughed field. The plough did its work, and the local population soon restored the site of the path. It was a common sight to find folk walking straight across a field of corn or roots.

Now a demand has sprung up for gherkins and the other vegetables that go to make pickles. Some farmers in the market gardening districts are taking up contracts for growing the special varieties of onions, shallots, ridge cucumbers, red cabbage, and cauliflowers that the pickle manufacturers want. Ordinarily they drew supplies from Holland, Belgium and France, but there is no reason why our pickles should not be all-British.

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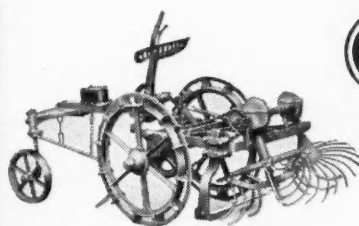
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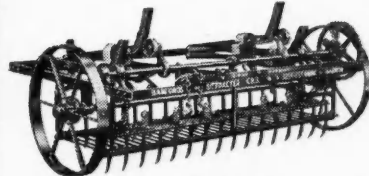
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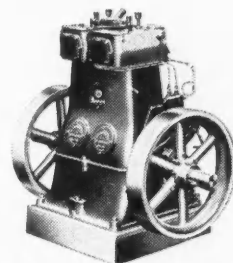
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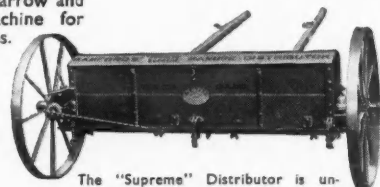
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FROM REAPER TO "COMBINE"

THE CENTENARY OF THE McCORMICK HARVESTING MACHINE

IT was in 1840 that Cyrus H. McCormick sold his first corn-cutting machine to one Abraham Smith for fifty dollars, and that was the real starting-point in a revolution in harvesting methods and a romance in the production of agricultural machinery. McCormick was born at Walnut Grove Farm in Virginia in 1809. His family was originally Scottish, and after a migration to Ulster some of them moved on to America. His father earned his living by farming, but his hobby was mechanics. His little log workshop, where he spent rainy days, turned out many labour-saving devices for the farm. By 1816 his father produced his first reaping machine, but it was a failure. It was pushed by horses, but would not cut. He persevered, and in 1831 turned out an improved model. This succeeded in cutting the corn, but left it in such a tangled mass that it was difficult to bind into sheaves. He abandoned the project, and Cyrus eagerly took it up. He saw that an essential was some contrivance for separating the corn to be cut from that left standing, and for several weeks he worked on the idea. Before the late corn was ready to cut he had improved on his father's efforts and took his machine to a field to try it out. The only spectators were his family, and they were overjoyed to find that the machine worked. But it was not till 1840 that he made a reaper that was a commercial proposition. With the money Smith paid him for this he at once set about constructing two more, and that autumn his three machines were at work in the grainfields of America. That warranted setting about factory production, and by 1844 his sales were up to fifty. It became evident that he needed a larger factory, and it struck him forcibly that the place for it was in the vast prairie lands of the West. So in 1847 he established himself in Chicago, where progress was remarkable, and in a quarter of a century he was turning out ten thousand harvesters a year. Then a disastrous fire destroyed his premises, but, encouraged by his wife, he set about re-building a better-equipped and larger plant. The new venture prospered exceedingly and progress was continuous, and before he died at the age of seventy-five in 1884 he had six million machines to his credit. Later the concern developed into the International Harvester Company, with his son Cyrus as its President.

THE SELF-BINDER

It was said that harvesting machinery enabled the wheat zone to advance thirty miles a year eastward for a decade. The reaper not only enabled America to feed her troops during the four years of Civil War, but to export vast quantities of grain. For a quarter of a century the machine remained in essentials the same, though of course there were frequent minor improvements. One Jearum Atkins, an invalid, was responsible for a major improvement. He watched a McCormick machine from his window, and got the idea of providing a revolving iron arm for raking the grain from the platform of the machine to the ground. This previously had to be done by hand. Men and women still had to follow and bind the sheaves. Then one Charles Withington of Ohio, who had worked on a farm in his youth, produced in 1872 a contrivance for binding, but he made no success of it. He was still profoundly convinced of its importance, and two years later approached McCormick on the subject, who found it did everything he had been planning for an improved machine to do. Then followed the McCormick-Withington self-binder, which

was considered the last word in the harvest field. Wire was used for binding, but in 1878 a mechanic named William Deering improved on this by constructing a machine to use twine.

The French Academy of Science in electing McCormick a member said he had done more for the cause of agriculture than any other living man. There can be no doubt about the immense contribution he made, but he cannot be regarded as the inventor of the reaper. It was as a pioneer and improver that he rendered such great service. The first reaping machine of which we have any record was used in Gaul in the first century A.D. and described in the works of Pliny. It was a kind of cart pushed by a single ox and with a large comb arrangement to pull off the heads of grain and deposit them in the cart. We have no further information about this primitive harvester, and for centuries little seems to have been done. Towards the end of the eighteenth century a machine for rippling corn on the same principle was tried in England, but did not find favour. Men, however, were beginning to exercise their minds on the possibilities of easing the work of the harvest field. In 1812 one John Common of Alnwick produced a corn-cutting machine and submitted a model to the Royal Society of Arts. Nothing came of it, and it is believed that the local peasantry strongly objected to the idea. Some ten years later Ogle, also of Alnwick, brought out something similar, but it did not take on.

A BRITISH PIONEER

The first practical corn-cutter in Great Britain seems to have been produced in 1826 by the Rev. Patrick Bell. It was in use at Powie in Forfar in 1828, and cut a breadth of five feet. It was moved by a single horse and, with the help of eight persons for raking and tying sheaves, it dealt with an acre per hour. Bell received a premium of £50 from the Highland Agricultural Society, and the machine continued to work on his brother's farm in the Carse of Gowrie for some fourteen years. It did not, however, gain much more than a local reputation. Records of the time suggest that its construction was somewhat weak, and it often came to grief. Labour was cheap, and the land was generally in high ridges unsuited to machinery. It is known that two of Bell's machines went to America, but at this distance of time it is impossible to say how far American experimenters benefited from a study of them.

An agricultural treatise dated 1851 states: "I shall not say much on reaping machines as none have yet been generally used in this country." About that time a Mr. Taylor, wrote: "the practice of mowing grain with the scythe is gaining ground and will in all probability contrive to do so until it is universally adopted." Bell's original machine with certain alterations in mechanism made while it was in use is now preserved in the South Kensington Museum,

and beside it is a model presented by Bell himself to show the original construction. Likewise the Museum is fortunate in having as a gift from the International Harvester Company McCormick's original machine which was his experimental model before he produced one for sale. Two other interesting early models of McCormick's construction are also on view, and one of them was shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851. It was this exhibition in Hyde Park that changed the whole outlook towards harvesting. McCormick's machine was put to a practical test on the estate of Mr. P. Pusey, M.P., Chairman of the Agricultural Section, at Pusey, near Farringdon. Also it was demonstrated at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. It was awarded the gold medal by virtue of "possessing so many and great advantages over all competitors." It then toured the country giving demonstrations. Great crowds gathered to see it in use on the estate of Mr. Mangles, M.P. for Guildford, at Farningham, Kent.

The success of the American machine brought the proprietors of Bell's machine into the field again, and in 1853 an improved model of it gained considerable popularity and a committee of experts recommended it and in their general opinion regarded reaping by machinery as "thoroughly inaugurated and fairly within the grasp of every farmer." Hussey's American production was introduced, and for some years the three fought for supremacy. Then Bell's product dropped out, and McCormick and Hussey were left to supply the stabilised form of machine which came into general use.

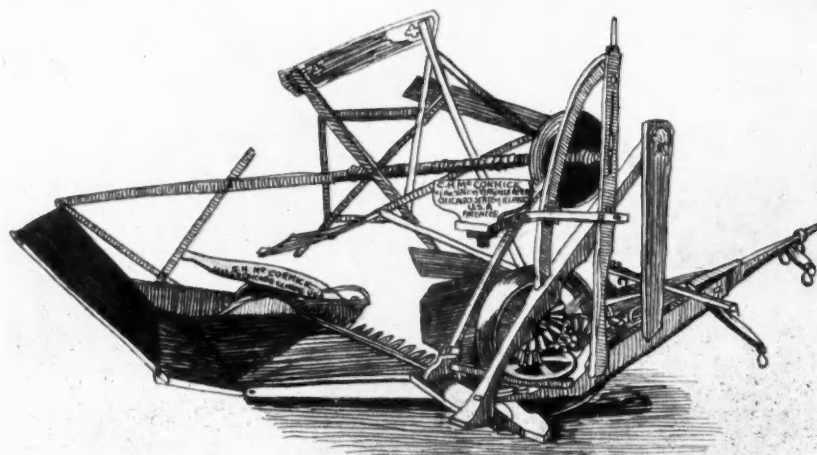
Mr. John Wilson, a Berwickshire practical farmer and a writer on British farming, pointed out in 1862 that the reaper came prominently before the farming world at a time when everything was in its favour. Industrial development and the opening up of new countries were drawing on man-power, the price of farm produce consequent on Free Trade urgently demanded a reduction in the cost of production, new drainage schemes had to a great extent done away with ridges, and there was a new outlook in agriculture.

LATER IMPROVEMENTS

About ten years ago another development came from America when its combined harvester was seen for the first time in our fields. That, however, is not suitable for the average British farmer, as it is not economical in use on small areas, and we still in the main depend on machines which are essentially of the McCormick type. Numerous firms now produce them, but the binder soon took the place of the machines which merely cut. Improvements were made both in this country and in America. Soon after the original McCormick machine came into use here, Burgess and Key of London fitted to it a self-acting side delivery worked by rollers fitted with Archimedean screws, which

threw off the reaped grain in a continuous orderly swathe. It was a great advance when a contrivance for gathering this up in the right amounts for a sheaf, tying the same, and throwing it aside, was added. Then the three operations were united in one. The line of cutters with sickle or scythe, and the women raking and tying sheaves, disappeared, and harvesting became a much more simple business. But with the advance much of the picturesque setting of the harvest field disappeared. However, our debt to machinery is immense, and with our large area to be harvested in 1940 we had good reason to remember Cyrus H. McCormick.

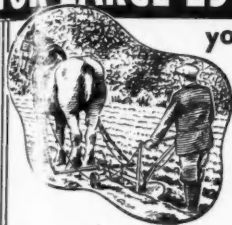
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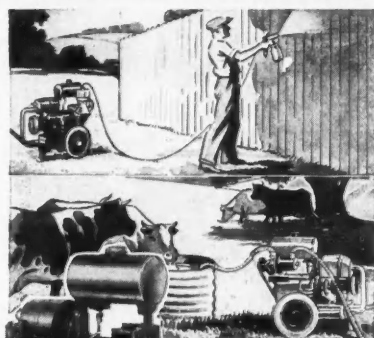
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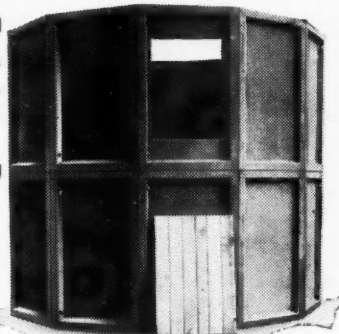
Associated Manufacturers Co. (London) Ltd., Palace of Industry, Wembley, Middx.
Phone: Wembley 3163 (4 lines). Grams: Amanco, Phone, London.

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FOR THE FARMER WHO WANTS THE BEST
The only wood part is the door.

It comes to you in easily handled concrete panels which only require bolting together by unskilled labour.

PLEASE WRITE FOR LIST WHICH
ALSO GIVES INSTRUCTIONS ON
THE MAKING AND FEEDING OF
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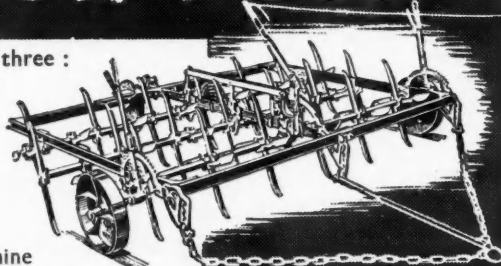
Patent applied for

ERNEST BATLEY, LYTHALLS LANE, COVENTRY

THE WILDER "PITCH-POLE"

Does the work of three:

It
Cleans—
Cultivates—
Aerates—



The combine machine for grassland rejuvenation and the working of arable. Uncheckable. Easily regulated depth of working. For light and heavy soils. Saves time in getting a tilth.

The Wilder "Pitch-Pole" For silage, grassland and hay. Grass crops from 3 to 18 tons per acre and delivered into trailer in tow.

The Grass TONIK HARROW Similar action to "Pitch-pole" for pasture only. Adjustable depth. Self-cleaning.

THE COMBINE CULTIVATOR for Grass and Arable

JOHN WILDER LTD., READING Phone: Reading 3204

TRAVEL AND BIOGRAPHY

MISS Freya Stark's reputation as the most outstanding of present-day travel writers is so well recognised that it is necessary only to say that this latest volume of hers—*A WINTER IN ARABIA* (John Murray, 16s.)—is well up to the standard of her previous works, "The Southern Gates of Arabia" and "The Valley of the Assassins." Having stated this, there is little more to be said, for in it there is the same happy gift of describing arid but striking scenery, the same intimate and sympathetic touch when she deals with the Beduin of Southern Arabia, and the same sane thinking when she digresses into wider fields such as the impact of the West upon the East. Her present book covers a portion of that widespread area that is only partially under British control, and where Mr. Harold Ingram, a recent recipient of the Lawrence Medal, has introduced what is known locally as the "Ingram's Peace." A few years ago every small village in this cultivated area was at war with its neighbour, and practically all trade and farming was at a standstill, as the sight of a man at work in his cucumber plot was the signal for a rifle shot. Now all that is changed, for Mr. Ingram succeeded where Mr. Chamberlain failed, and peace prevails, though it turns over rather creakily at times. The journey which the book describes is from Makilla, on the coast, up one of the many cultivated *wadis* to Huriedha, some 120 miles to the north, and Miss Stark was accompanied by two ladies who were visiting the Hadhramaut to investigate the prehistoric past of Southern Arabia. She refers to them as the archaeologist and the geologist, and reading between the lines one gathers that though the geologist proved sympathetic she did not see eye to eye with the archaeologist in all things. This was due to the archaeologist being unable to reconcile her Western ideas to the financial methods of the Arab foreman charged with the payment of the workmen on the "dig"—and even in Arabia a "rake-off" of seventy-five per cent. is unusual. Miss Stark was able to view the whole matter from the sympathetic and detached point of view of the onlooker, but the archaeologist, who was responsible, saw it in another light. There is one point about these queer established customs of the East that Miss Stark overlooks in her Oriental enthusiasm, which is that their popularity with the people concerned is entirely one-sided. The Arab workman objects to his pay being cut just as strongly as would our trade-unionists. The wonderful pictures in the book—a most generous allowance in war-time—disclose the fact that Miss Stark's artistic eye is second only to her literary gift.

BRITISH HILLS AND MOUNTAINS

BRITISH HILLS AND MOUNTAINS (Batsford, 8s. 6d.) is a book both for the hill-climber and the mountaineer, who is defined as a person who, on seeing a mountain or hill, "tends to want to get to the top of it, as distinct from a person who prefers to admire it from the foot." It is designed to help those who wish to improve their acquaintance with our heights, now so much more accessible than the guarded coast; and the survey is by three specialists, each familiar with his chosen

ground. Dr. Bell, first and foremost a mountaineer, pays tribute to the Scottish Highlands and Lowlands, and describes with intimate feeling the "secret beauty born of mists, rain and sunshine" of the Highlands, which contrasts with the mystery of clearness as seen in the Alps and Himalayas. In this section the Grampians and the Rannoch district receive a generous allowance of space, because here the author gained much of his mountaineering experience. Mr. Bozman, who is in charge of the Welsh and English section, descends to the level of the Chilterns and the South or Sussex Downs and the little-known Dorset Downs. By an oversight Pilsdon Pen is described as being only ninety feet high (page 113). The chapters mix useful advice about the approach to the heights, the "rules of the game," with scholarly information about the basis of all heights, geology, and fresh appreciation of natural beauty. Particular care has been taken to bring together a prodigious series of pictures of noble scenery, and some of the Scottish section has been skilfully dramatised by clouds, scenery and snow in the manner of Turner.

SCOTTISH CHILDHOOD

Boyhood, twenty years ago in rural, feudal Scotland, is the subject of *THE GREEN HILLS FAR AWAY* (Collins, 10s. 6d.). Mr. James Barke's outstanding gifts are honesty and vividness; his outlook is passionately, at times fiercely, Scottish. Surely, for example, it is an exaggeration to say that "the English hate him [the Scot] and sneer at him." A much more common reaction is that of rueful respect and admiration, not unmixed with brotherly affection, for the qualities that get the Scot to the top—out of Scotland. But, be that as it may, here is an individual book, written by a man who remembers scores of those rugged, pithy characters that the march of synthetic progress tends to destroy. Through his memories, although he is barely of middle age, he reaches back to Scottish village life "in the lethargic autumn of the Victorian era . . . ripe rottenness in the brief Indian summer of Edwardianism . . . the cold shivering impact of the First World War . . . slow crumbling decay in the discontented winter of the post-war depression." The author's nostalgia, which is that of a poet, is linked to the vigorous, hard-hitting personality of a man who has loved living close to the unviolated earth, and who hates the life of towns.

SERVICE INFORMATION

There are so many things we do not know, or have forgotten, about the fighting Services of England: who issued, and received, the first war medal? How ships are named? How regiments got their nicknames? How men cooked in the trenches? What it is like to be blown up by a mine? All these questions, and many others, are answered in *KIT-BAG* (Chambers, 3s.), a neat little compendium of knowledge edited by Patrick Monkhouse. It is literally full of facts, served up in a most palatable form, and can be thoroughly recommended as excellent value for money.

SOLUTION to No. 554

The winner of this crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of September 7th, will be announced next week.

C	A	N	N	E	R	Y	B	A	L	D	R	I	C
H	O	U	M	S	O	U	O						
I	F	O	R	E	F	A	T	H	E	R	S	L	
M	E	E	K	F	R	L	A	U	T	O			
N	A	B	U	C	K	R	A	M	B	N			
E	N	T	A	I	L	S	R	A	T	T	L	E	
Y	U	S	I	N	A	N	E	L					
C	R	E	C	H	E	R	E	T	A	R	D		
S	E	U	W	K	U	F	B						
W	E	L	K	I	N	S	J	A	G	U	A	R	
E	E	T	O	M	P	I	O	N	G	A			
E	R	S	T	I	A	S	S	E	A	M			
P	S	E	A	S	E	R	P	E	N	T	S	B	
E	A	E	E	P	U	L							
R	E	P	R	E	S	S	S	H	I	N	G	L	

ACROSS.

1. A wooden forerunner of the tank (two words, 6, 5)
9. Retracted with it (5)
10. Lear's "marbled-hearted fiend" (11)
11. Ply an elbow (5)
- 12 and 15. River transports (two words, 5, 5)
17. It would take a thousand to make a man of her (3)
18. The kind of man 3 must be (4)
19. Is it a stain? Apparently not (5)
21. Clear (5)
22. Not an aid to speed (5)
23. Piece of leather with parts reversed (5)
26. Not a colourful poet when looked at back to front (4)
27. Water makes this game a battle (3)
- 28 and 30. Savings go into them (two words, 5, 5)
33. What the first grey hair says in the looking-glass? (5)
35. "Say 'river,' Ann" (anagr.) (11)
36. How the straying undergraduate is appropriately dealt with (5)

37. It weighs heavily on many a head (two words, 5, 6).

DOWN.

2. "Siren" (anagr.) (5)
3. One of twelve (5)
4. A short letter, not the fifth (4)
5. The umpire's order to a batsman reluctant to leave the wicket? (5)
6. Rivers or gardens (5)
7. Nothing but hope was left in it (two words, 8, 3)
8. The previous history of relatives? (11)
12. Is it Oxford's equivalent of the *pons asinorum*? (two words, 5, 6)
13. Popular fruit in Russia? (11)
14. They may be attached to church or farm (5)
- 15 and 16. A piece of wood composed of a piece of wood and half a score more (6)
20. Vibration (5)
- 24 and 25. Of double thickness (6)
28. Fields that bring advertisements to me (5)
29. The best people? (5)
31. Bird taken out of its aqueous element (5)
32. It's weird the lake should occupy most of it (5)
34. On its size depends the smallness of the fish in the catch (4)

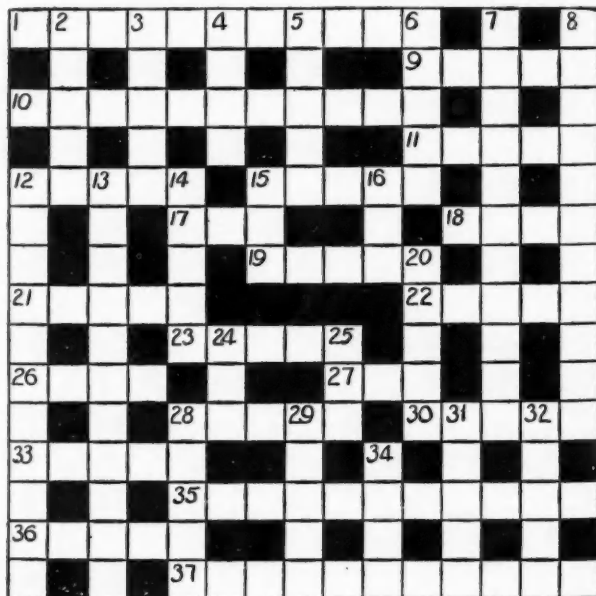
"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 555

A prize of books to the value of 2 guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 555, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10 Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the **first post on the morning of Thursday, Sept. 19th, 1940.**

The winner of Crossword No. 553 is

Mrs. W. E. F. Cheesman, Hilly Field, Rye, Sussex.

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 555



Name

Address

G.E.C.

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Patriotic buying to-day means buying only necessities—and buying them to last. That is why, in the purchase of electrical necessities, you would be wise to choose from the range of G.E.C. quality products.

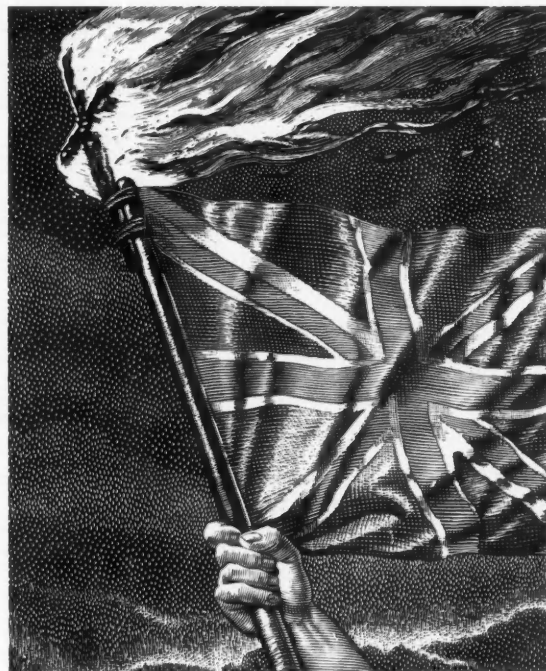


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Electrical for
the Home*

MADE IN ENGLAND

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Electrical Suppliers

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It is now clear that while this struggle is to the Nazis a war of conquest, to us it is a Crusade to preserve our freedom and everything that makes life worth living. All we have and are is involved in the outcome. Our patriotic feelings and our private interests unite to impose a single duty upon each one of us—the duty of putting everything we can—without reservation—into the struggle. On the financial front victories must be won as decisively as on the fighting fronts. All who possess or have control of money should place it immediately at the service of the nation.

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2½% (1945-47) a full Trustee Security—Price of issue £100 per cent. Prospectus and application forms obtainable from Banks or Stockbrokers.

Issued by The National Savings Committee, London.

FORECASTING FASHION

I HAD a unique experience last week when going to see the new collection of Callot Sœurs at 7, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, between air-raid warnings, I found myself the sole audience and was courteously given a delightful little display all for my benefit. Two evening dresses particularly won my admiration: one was in red Baghera, which is something like a fairy's idea of velvet, and had an embroidered cord crossed at the back and brought over the shoulders as sole relief, and huge softly full sleeves. The other was in a lovely silk velvet in dark green shot with mole; it had a belt of pale gold and silver galon and wide sleeves edged with broad bands of silver fox. Both were easy to slip in and out of, and as beautiful as anything of the sort I have ever seen. A day ensemble in olive green wool, the coat with a dyed ermine collar and the dress with a charming triple collar effect edged with gold was perfect,



Hug White

and the tweeds, particularly a hooded coat and coat and skirt, in check and plain material, with blouse to match and charming hat by Marcelle of Berkeley Square, I liked immensely.

FURS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

A great many people who must have new furs this winter are getting them before the purchase tax adds to their cost. With this in view I have chosen the two photographs on this page, both taken at Messrs. Marshall and Snelgrove's (334 Oxford Street, W.1). They are but two chosen from a great many styles, among which a clever use of ocelot with nutria particularly attracted me. These two I chose for illustration as representing quite different types of garments. The dyed ermine is absolutely a full-dress coat fashioned in the most exquisite fur—worked diagonally—confined at the waist with a narrow rope of the fur held by a gold buckle, and with a flared skirt. The other three-quarter-length coat in natural Canadian beaver owes some of its charm to the clever way in which the lighter tops of the skins are used to emphasise



TWO BEAUTIFUL FUR COATS FROM MESSRS. MARSHALL AND SNELGROVE'S. ON THE LEFT A DYED ERMINE OF REMARKABLE QUALITY WITH CORD BELT OF THE FUR AND FULL SKIRT. ON THE RIGHT A PRACTICAL HARD-WEARING BUT MOST ATTRACTIVE COAT IN NATURAL CANADIAN BEAVER. THE TWO PRETTY HATS COME FROM THE SAME SOURCE

the swing of the back. Though this is a coat which would look well in town, it would also be quite in place in the country, and stand hard wear and weather, supposing—and this applies to most furs—that it was well shaken and allowed to dry in a warm, airy place but never before a fire.

KITCHEN WISDOM

I was struck the other day with the common sense of some suggestions as to conserving fats, and as shortage of fats will be one of the difficulties of the winter, make no excuse for passing them on. One's cook has thought of some of them, there may be others. She does not practise and to which it will be well to call her attention. The first is: never fry if baking, braising, steaming, or grilling will do. If you fry, save the fat, however little, left in the pan, strain it if necessary, or, if it may have caught the flavour of what has been done in it, clarify it by boiling some water with it in the pan. It will then set on the top of the water, and can be at once dried and rendered down by a short sojourn in the oven. Fat on the water in which meat or bacon has been boiled can be similarly treated. Dry frying, a method requiring a very thick frying pan and a layer of salt made as hot as possible but not too hot, is good for fish, chops and steaks; and surplus fat should be cut from joints and chops before cooking, and rendered down, in the case of the latter, using a little of it to frizzle in the pan before frying. ISABEL CRABPTON.

MINISTRY OF FOOD



THE WEEK'S

FOOD

FACTS No. 7

Tear out this advertisement and pin it up in your kitchen with the others in the series.



EVERYONE knows that we must eat for energy, and for building or rebuilding our bodies. But do you know that we can eat also to *protect ourselves from illness*? Science has discovered that some foods rich in vitamins and mineral salts increase resistance to infections.

All the foods in the panel below are of this kind: they are *protective foods*. They are nature's "tonics" and nature's "medicines". They should be part of your diet as much as the body-building and energy foods. Begin to eat wisely now for the sake of your health in the winter.

ON THE KITCHEN FRONT

Do you listen-in to the hints and recipes given at 8.15 every morning on the Wireless?

CHIEF PROTECTIVE FOODS

Milk	Potatoes
Butter or Margarine	Green Vegetables (fresh or canned but not dried)
Cheese	Salads
Eggs	Fruit (fresh or canned but not dried)
Herrings (fresh, canned or salt)	Carrots
Salmon (fresh or canned)	Tomatoes
Liver	Wholemeal Bread

HOW TO DRY PLUMS

The whole secret of drying plums is in drying them *slowly*. First wash your fruit and arrange on muslin-covered racks or wire trays. Dry as slowly as possible, at never more than 120°F. Use, on several consecutive days, the heat left in your oven after cooking. Keep the oven door ajar. After about 15 hours' drying, test by squeezing a plum gently. If the skin doesn't break, the fruit is ready. Allow to cool for 12 hours and then put in jars.

A NEW SALAD. Wash and drain a crisp lettuce, put it in a bowl and pour over it a dressing made by mixing thoroughly 2 tablespoonfuls salad oil, 1 tablespoonful vinegar with salt and pepper to taste. Turn the lettuce over and over in the dressing with a wooden spoon; then line your bowl with it. Pile in the middle a grated raw carrot, a chopped apple, a cupful of cooked diced potatoes, and decorate with chopped mint and a small chopped onion.

THE BLACKBERRY CROP



Blackberries are ripening fast all over the country. Don't neglect this good and health-giving fruit. Try to organise blackberry-picking parties—but take care to close all gates and avoid trampling on crops.

THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, LONDON, S.W.1

In times of unrest and uncertainty

many people ask themselves: 'How can I best provide for the administration of my estate and the welfare of my dependants?'

The fullest security can be attained by the appointment of a substantial corporate body as your Executor and Trustee.

The Trustee Department of the 'GENERAL' offers confidential and sympathetic administration, combined with expert investment knowledge, permanence and the financial security of a Company whose Assets are

£21,000,000

Enquiries should be addressed to
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GENERAL

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Life and Fire Established 1837.

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"I look ten years younger"

The above is an extract from a recent letter received from an enthusiastic user of VIVATONE RADIO-ACTIVE HAIR RESTORER. There is nothing more distressing than premature greyness. Do not resort to dangerous dyes or stains which are most obvious when they have been used. With VIVATONE detection is impossible even by your nearest friends, as the change is gradual and natural. VIVATONE owing to its wonderful RADIO-ACTIVE properties not only restores the hair naturally, but at the same time dispels dandruff and promotes the growth.

INSIST on VIVATONE and you will be sure of a genuine preparation.

VIVATONE

REGD.
HAIR RESTORER

Price 3/6, 7/6, post free, in plain wrapper. Obtainable from Boots (all branches), Timothy White's, Taylor's Drug Stores, or direct in plain package from

ANDRÉ GIRARD & CIE. (ENG), LTD., Imperial Works, Ryland Road, N.W.2

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Those ageing wrinkles and crow's-feet fade utterly away, leaving the face smooth, firm and young, by means of VIVATONE (Regd.) Radio-Active Wrinkle Remover prepared by an eminent Paris Beauty Specialist.

2/6 and 4/6 (triple size). From Boots (all branches), Timothy White's, Taylor's Drug Stores, or direct in plain wrapper, André Girard & Cie. (Eng.), Ltd., Imperial Works, Ryland Road, N.W.2

Clean your teeth to last with

Euthymol TOOTH PASTE

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Gloucester Road, S.W.7.
BASIL STREET HOTEL.
Knightsbridge, S.W.
BERKELEY HOTEL.
Piccadilly, W.1.
BROWN'S HOTEL.
Dover Street, W.1.
CADOGAN HOTEL.
Sloane Street, S.W.1.
CARLTON HOTEL.
Pall Mall, S.W.1.
CAVENDISH HOTEL.
Jermyn Street, W.1.
CLARIDGE'S HOTEL.
Brook Street, W.1.
CONNAUGHT HOTEL.
Carlos Place, W.1.
DORCHESTER HOTEL.
Park Lane, W.1.
GORING HOTEL.
Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.
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GROSVENOR HOTEL.
Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
GROSVENOR HOUSE.
Park Lane, W.1.
HOWARD HOTEL.
Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.2.
LANGHAM HOTEL.
Portland Place, W.1.
PARK LANE HOTEL.
Piccadilly, W.1.
PICCADILLY HOTEL.
Piccadilly, W.1.
RITZ HOTEL.
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SAVOY HOTEL.
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WALDORF HOTEL.
Aldwych, W.C.2.
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Curzon Street, W.1.
WILTON HOTEL.
Victoria, S.W.1.

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BLETSOE.
The Falcon Inn.
EATON SOCON.
Ye Olde White Horse.

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ASCOT.
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White Hart Hotel.
WINDSOR.
The "White Hart," Windsor, Ltd.

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HOYLAKE.
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CORNWALL

BUDE.
The Grenville Hotel (Bude) Ltd.
FALMOUTH.
Falmouth Hotel.
HELFOED PASSAGE.
(near Falmouth).
The Ferry Boat Inn.
POLPERRO, LOOE.
Noughts & Crosses Inn.
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ST. IVES.
Tregonna Castle Hotel.
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King Arthur's Castle Hotel.

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Scale Hill Hotel.

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Imperial Hotel.
BELSTONE (DARTMOOR).
Cherry Trees.
BIGBURY BAY.
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BUDLEIGH SALTERN.
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CULLOMPTON.
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DARTMOUTH.
Raleigh Hotel.
Strete, Manor House Hotel.
EXETER.
Rougemont Hotel.
HARTLAND.
Quay Hotel.
HAYTOR, NEWTON ABBOT.
Moorland Hotel.
Pinchford Farm.
HORNS CROSS (N. DEVON).
Hoops Inn.
KINGSWEAR (S. DEVON).
Riversea Private Hotel.
Phone 32 Kingswear.
LEE.
Lee Bay Hotel.
LIFTON.
The Arundell Arms.
LYNTON.
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Modbury Inn Hotel.
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(near Moretonhampstead).
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NORTHAM (Westward Ho).
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PAIGNTON.
Redcliffe Hotel.
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SIDMOUTH.
Fortfield Hotel.
Knowle Hotel, Ltd.
Victoria Hotel.
Cedar Shade Hotel.
TORQUAY.
Dean-Prior Hotel, St. Marks Road.
Grand Hotel.
Howden Court Hotel.
Imperial Hotel.
Livermead House Hotel.
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CHARMOUTH.
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SHAPTESBURY.
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DURHAM

DURHAM.
Royal County Hotel.

ESSEX

FRINTON-ON-SEA.
Beach Hotel.

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GLOUCESTER.
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TEWKESBURY.
Royal Hop Pole Hotel.

HAMPSHIRE

BROCKENHURST.
Forest Park Hotel.

Hampshire—continued.

BOURNEMOUTH.
Branksome Tower Hotel.
Canford Cliffs Hotel.
Grand Hotel.
Highcliffe Hotel.
Norfolk Hotel.
The White Hermitage (Pier Front).
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The Haven Hotel.
LIPHOOK.
Royal Anchor Hotel.
LYNDHURST.
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NEW MILTON.
Grand Marine Hotel.
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ODHAM.
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Sandringham Hotel.
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(near Lyndhurst).
Compton Arms Hotel.
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Royal Hotel.

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HEREFORD.
Hop Pole Hotel.
ROSS-ON-WYE (near).
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ROSS-ON-WYE.
Royal Hotel.

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BUSHEY.
Bushey Hall Hotel.
LITTLE GADDESSEN.
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George Hotel.
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Golden Lion Hotel.

ISLE OF WIGHT

SHANKLIN.
Shanklin Towers Hotel.

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DOVER (St. Margaret's Bay).
The Granville Hotel.
FOLKESTONE.
Burlington Hotel.
HYTHE.
The Hotel Imperial.
IGHTHAM.
Town House.
SEVENOAKS, RIVERHEAD.
The Amber Arms Hotel.
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
Wellington Hotel.
WESTERHAM.
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LANCASHIRE

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Victoria Hotel.
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BLAKENY.
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CROMER.
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Manor Farm Country Hotel.
KETTERING.
George Hotel.
PETERBOROUGH.
Angel Hotel.
Bull Hotel.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

NR. RETFORD.
Barbry Moor. Ye Olde Bell Hotel.

OXFORDSHIRE

MINSTER LOVELL.
The Old Swan.
OXFORD.
Randolph Hotel.

SHROPSHIRE

CHURCH STRETTON.
The Hotel.

SOMERSET

ALLERFORD, MINEHEAD.
Holnicote House Hotel.
BATH.
Lansdown Grove Hotel.
Lansdown Hotel.
Brockham End.
EXFORD (near Minehead).
Crown Hotel.
HOLFORD.
Alfoxton Park Hotel (closed during the war).
ILMINSTER.
George Hotel.
MINEHEAD.
Beach Hotel.
Hotel Metropole.
TAUNTON.
Castle Hotel.

STAFFORDSHIRE

ECCLESHALL (near).
Bishops Offley Manor, Guest House.
UTTOXETER.
White Hart Hotel.

SUFFOLK

ALDEBURGH-ON-SEA.
White Lion Hotel.
BURY ST. EDMUNDS.
Angel Hotel.
BARTON MILLS
(near Bury St. Edmunds).
The Bull Inn.
FELIXSTOWE.
Felix Hotel.
LOWESTOFT.
Hotel Victoria.
SOUTHWOLD.
Grand Hotel.

SURREY

CHURT (near Farnham).
Frensham Pond Hotel.
GODALMING.
The Lake Hotel.
GUILDFORD (near).
Newlands Corner Hotel.
HASLEMERE.
Georgian Hotel.
KINGSWOOD (WARREN).
Kingswood Park Guest House.
FEASLAKE (near Guildford).
Hurtwood Hotel.
SANDERSTEAD.
Selsdon Park Hotel.
WEYBRIDGE.
Oatlands Park Hotel.
WIMBLEDON.
Southdown Hall Hotel.

SUSSEX

ALFRISTON.
"Star" Inn.
BEXHILL.
Granville Hotel.
BRIGHTON.
Norfolk Hotel.
Old Ship Hotel.
BRIGHTON (SALTDEAN).
Ocean Hotel.
CROSS-IN-HAND.
Possingworth Park Hotel.
CROWBOROUGH.
Crest Hotel. Tel. 394.
The Beacon Hotel.
EASTBOURNE.
Alexandra Hotel.
Burlington Hotel.
Park Gates Hotel.
HASTINGS.
Queen's Hotel.

Sussex—continued.

HOVE.
New Imperial Hotel.
Prince's Hotel.
Dudley Hotel.
KIRDFORD, BILLINGHURST.
Filliams (Guest House).
LEWES.
White Hart Hotel.
PETWORTH.
Swan Hotel.
ROTTINGDEAN.
Tudor Close Hotel.
ST. LEONARDS.
Royal Victoria Hotel.
Sussex Hotel.
WYCH CROSS (Forest Row).
The Roebuck Hotel.

WARWICKSHIRE

BIRMINGHAM.
New Grand Hotel.

WESTMORLAND

AMBLESIDE.
The Queen's Hotel.
GRASMERE.
Prince of Wales Lake Hotel.
WINDERMERE.
Langdale Chase Hotel.
Rigg's Crown Hotel.

WILTSHIRE

EAST EVERLEIGH, MARLBOROUGH.
The Crown Hotel.
SALISBURY.
Old George Hotel.
County Hotel.

WORCESTERSHIRE

BROADWAY.
Dorset Guest House.
(Broadway Golf Club).
The Lygon Arms.
DROITWICH SPA.
Raven Hotel.

YORKSHIRE

BOROUGHBRIDGE.
Three Arrows Hotel.
CATTERICK BRIDGE.
The Bridge House Hotel.
ILKLEY.
The Middleton Hotel.
LONDONDERRY.
Newton House Hotel.
SCARBOROUGH.
Royal Hotel.
SOUTH STANLEY
(near Harrogate).
Red Lion Inn.
YORK.
Young's Hotel, High Peter-gate.

IRELAND (EIRE)

ENNISSYMON (Co. CLARE).
Falls Hotel.
LOUGH ARROW (Co. SLIGO).
Hollybrook House Hotel.
LUCAN (Co. DUBLIN).
Spa Hotel.
WATERTOWN (Co. KERRY).
Butler Arms Hotel.
Bay View Hotel.
WHITEGATE (Hunting District) (Co. CORK).
Corrbeg Hotel.

NORTHERN IRELAND

BANGOR (Co. DOWN).
Royal Hotel.
BELFAST.
Grand Central Hotel.
PORTRUSH.
Seabank Hotel.

SCOTLAND

ARGYLLSHIRE
KINELFORD.
Cullival Hotel.
LOCH AWE.
Loch Awe Hotel.
ORAN.
Alexandra Hotel.
TOBERMORY (Isle of Mull).
Western Isles Hotel.

Scotland—continued.

AYRSHIRE
SKELMORLIE.
Skelmorlie Hydro.
TROON.
Marine Hotel.

BUTESHIRE

ROTHESAY.
Glenburn Hotel.

FIFESHIRE

ST. ANDREWS.
The Grand Hotel.

INVERNESS-SHIRE

CARRBRIDGE.
Carrbridge Hotel.
INVERNESS.
Caledonian Hotel.
Royal Hotel.
ONICH.
Creag-Dhu Hotel.
PORTREE.
Portree Hotel.

KINCARDINESHIRE

BANCHORY.
Royal Desride Hotel.
Tor-na-Coille Hotel.

MORAYSHIRE

GRANTOWN-ON-SPY.
Grant Arms Hotel.

PERTHSHIRE

BLAIR ATHOLL.
Atholl Arms Hotel.
GLENDEVON (near Glenageish).
Castle Hotel.
Telephone: Muckhart 27.
PERTH.
Windsor Restaurant,
38, St. John Street.
PITLOCHRY.
Pitlochry Hydro Hotel.

ROSS-SHIRE

GAIRLOCH.
Gairloch Hotel.
STRATHPEFFER.
Spa Hotel.

SUTHERLANDSHIRE

LAIRG.
Altnaharra Hotel.
SCOURIE.
Hotel Scourie.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

STRANRAER.
Auld King's Arms.

WALES

CAPEL CURIG.
Tyn-y-Coed Hotel.
DOLGELLEY.
Golden Lion Royal Hotel.
LLANGOLLEN.
The Hand Hotel.
MENAI BRIDGE.
Gazelle Hotel.
Glyn Garth.
SAUNDERSFOOT, TENBY.
St. Brides Hotel.

FOREIGN HOTELS

CEYLON

COLOMBO.
Galle Face Hotel.
KANDY.
Queen's Hotel.

JAPAN

KOBE.
Oriental Hotel.

SOUTH AFRICA

KENYA (THIKA).
Blue Post Hotel.